PREPARATION PLAN

for the

UNCOMPAHGRE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
Uncompahgre Field Office
Bureau of Land Management

September 2008

Preparation Plan
for the
Uncompahgre
Resource Management Plan

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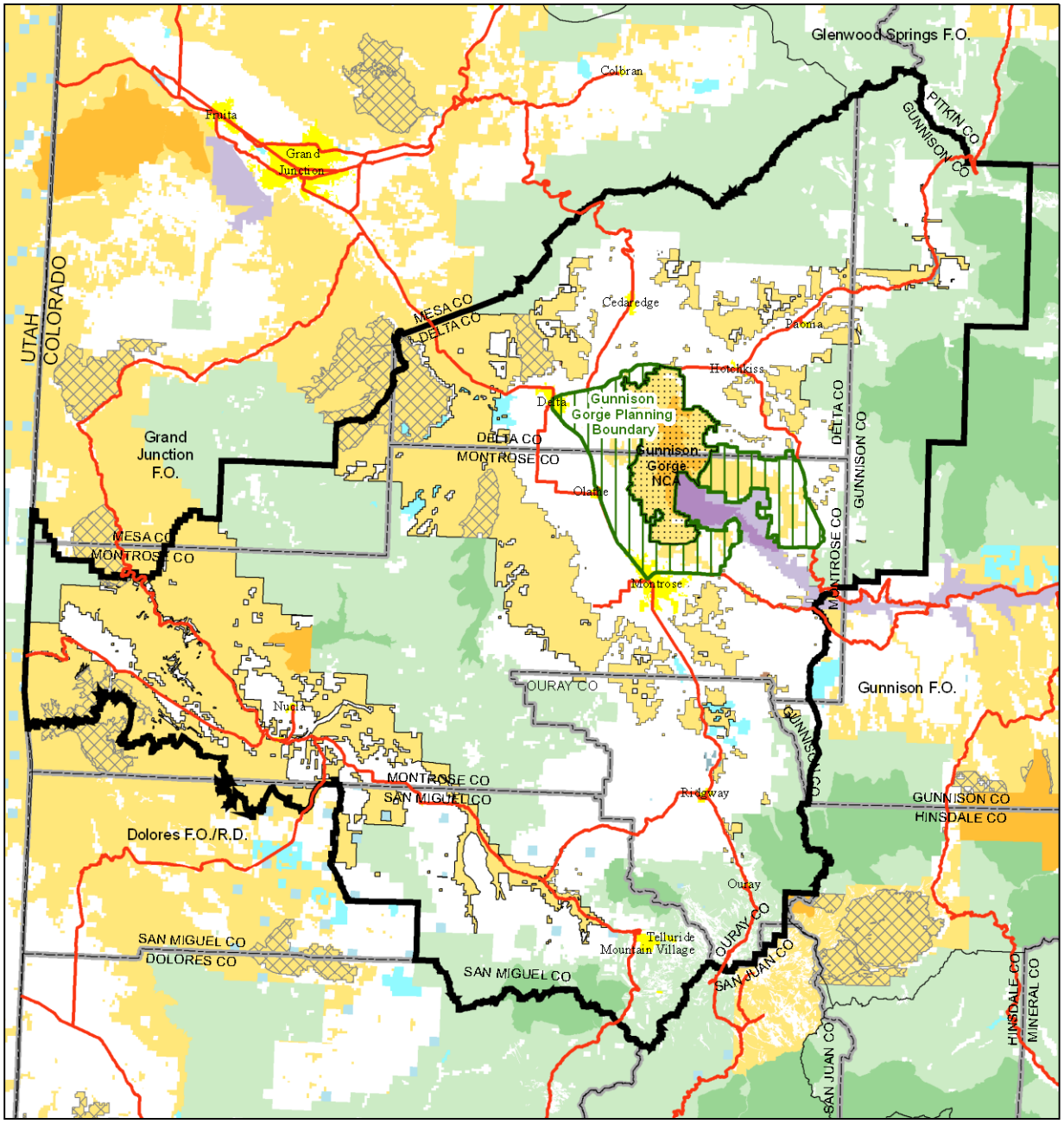
Figure 1. Uncompahgre Planning Area.



Map produced by Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre FieldOffice, GIS Program
March, 2008. Projection: UTM, Zone 13; Datum: NAD 1983

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*The Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 protects the wilderness characteristics of the Roubideau and Tabeguache Areas but does not label them as Wilderness.They are illustrated on this map as Wilderness.

I. Introduction and Background

The Uncompahgre Field Office is currently operating with two Resource Management Plans (RMP): the Uncompahgre Basin RMP (July 1989), and the San Juan/San Miguel RMP (September 1985). Since the dissolution of the Montrose District, the San Juan/San Miguel RMP has been used by both the Uncompahgre Field Office and the San Juan Public Lands Center (Dolores Field Office). The San Juan Public Lands Center is in the draft stage of their RMP revision, and is revising the portion of the San Juan/San Miguel RMP that falls under their jurisdiction.

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) lies within the UFO, and BLM completed the RMP for this NCA in 2004. BLM lands covered by the Uncompahgre Basin RMP, excluding those covered by the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP, will be combined with the remaining lands covered by the San Juan/San Miguel RMP to form the new Uncompahgre RMP.

Resource management planning provides the basis for evaluating and communicating public land uses. Using the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) seeks to maximize resource values for present and future generations. The planning area has experienced many changes since completion of the last two RMPs that present a challenge to achieving that mission. Among the many changes, there has been an increase in oil, gas and uranium activity, increased recreation demands, increased pressures on wildlife and land health, growth in the urban interface, and increased impacts from population growth. The revision of the RMP will engage the public in looking at management options to address the changing use of the public lands.

The BLM's land use plans, called Resource Management Plans (RMPs) take about three years to complete. Opportunities for public involvement are continuous during development and implementation of the RMP.

A. Planning Area Description

The Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) lies in southwest Colorado, within two ecologic provinces; the Southern Rocky Mountain province, and the Colorado Plateau province. BLM lands within the planning area range from salt-desert shrub (4,701 ft.) to alpine forest (11,449 ft.). The area exhibits varied topography, geology, soil, and flora and fauna components of both provinces including desert scrub, riparian, sagebrush parks, pinyon-juniper woodlands, mountain shrub, ponderosa pine, and spruce-fir forests.

The planning area is the Uncompahgre Field Office, excluding the Gunnison Gorge NCA planning area (figure 1). It is bordered on the west by the BLM Moab Field Office (in Utah); on the north by the BLM Grand Junction Field Office and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest (GMUG); on the east by the BLM Gunnison Field Office and GMUG; and on the south by the BLM Dolores Field Office, San Juan National Forest, and GMUG. The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the Gunnison Gorge NCA, and the Curecanti National Recreation Area are within the UFO boundary, as are four Colorado State Parks. Figure 1 is a map of the UFO planning area.

The planning area encompasses approximately 3,216,600 acres of federal, state, and private

lands in six counties; Montrose, Delta, Mesa, Gunnison, Ouray, and San Miguel. Twenty-five distinct and diverse communities exist within the UFO; the communities have very different economic bases, values and resources, and include high end resort communities, farm and ranching communities, coal mining towns, and others. Numerous communities and subdivisions are also in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The population in many of the counties is expected to grow faster than the statewide average over the next 25 years, which will contribute to an expanding urban interface zone. In addition, the planning area is crossed by major power transmission lines that are critical for maintaining service to the entire western United States power grid. Mineral development is also expected to continue at a rapid pace over the next decade, adding to the complexity of managing public lands.

Within the planning area, 787,640 acres are BLM public lands (surface lands and federal minerals). The planning area contains 1,276,179 acres of federal minerals under other federal land, as well as 294,291 acres of federal minerals under private and state lands. Table 1 depicts land status and mineral estate within the Uncompahgre Planning Area.

Table 1. Land Status and Mineral Estate within the Uncompahgre Planning Area

Surface in the Planning Area	**Approximate Acres (in planning area)**
BLM	787,640
Forest Service	1,249,070
National Park Service	27,109
State (including Division of Wildlife)	20,378
City	684
Private	1,131,712
Total Within Planning Area	3,216,593
Counties within the Planning Area	
Montrose	1,213,684
Delta	661,759
Mesa	137,103
Gunnison	426,779
Ouray	344,386
San Miguel	429,792
Insignificant parts of other counties	3,276
Mineral Estate in the Planning Area	
No Federal Minerals	871,954
[1]All Federal Minerals	2,251,394
Coal Only	55,577
Oil and Gas Only	10,879
Oil, Gas and Coal Only	8,967
[2]Other	18,027

[1] All Federal Minerals. The federal government owns rights to all minerals (e.g. coal, oil, gas, Uranium, gravel, sand, moss rock, and all others).

[2] Other. The federal government owns rights to other minerals, either singly or a combination of other minerals. Other minerals includes uranium, moss rock, gravel, sand, and other minerals not listed in this table.

B. Current Land Use Plans

Uncompahgre Field Office is using two land use plans.

i. The Uncompahgre Basin RMP was approved in July 1989. The following amendments and activity plans have been completed:

- Land Disposal Plan Amendment (1994)
- Standards and Guides Amendment (1997)
- North Fork OHV Travel Amendment (2001)
- Fire Amendment (2002)
- Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP (2004)
- Two travel management plans are being worked on. UFO will complete these in 2009, and will amend the existing plan. The decisions will be incorporated into the new Uncompahgre RMP.

ii. The San Juan/San Miguel Basin RMP was approved in September 1985. The following amendments and activity plans have been completed:

- Oil and Gas Plan Amendment (1991)
- San Miguel River ACEC/SRMA Amendment (1993)
- Standards and Guides Amendment (1997)
- Tabeguache Area Congressional Designation (1993)
- A travel management plan is being worked on. UFO will complete this in 2009, and will amend the existing plan. The decision will be incorporated into the new Uncompahgre RMP.

C. Purpose and Need

Section 202(a) of FLPMA as amended (43 USC 1701 et seq.) requires the Secretary of the Interior to develop, maintain, and when appropriate, revise land use plans which provide for the use of the public lands.

This RMP will combine the two RMPs UFO is currently using into one updated RMP. Since the two existing RMPs were completed, there have been several new issues, some of which will greatly increase the complexity of management because they are of national significance, and there has been a higher level of controversy surrounding existing issues. A comprehensive list of issues is detailed in section II (Anticipated Planning Issues and Management Concerns).

In addition to new issues, there have been new County Fire Plans and Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) developed at the county and community level to manage the increasing risk from wildfire. The Uncompahgre Field Office staff and the Montrose Interagency Fire Management staff have been working with the local counties, fire departments, and homeowner associations to develop and implement these plans. They will be considered in the development of the updated RMP.

This Preparation Plan will lay the framework for combining the plans to create the Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan. Other specific objectives of the Preparation Plan are to:

1. Describe the process for developing the Uncompahgre RMP plan;
2. Identify anticipated planning issues and management concerns;
3. Identify preliminary planning criteria;
4. Identify Data and GIS needs;

5. Identify participants in the planning process;
6. Provide a schedule and budget for the plan;
7. Present a public participation plan.

Much of the plan revision will be performed by a contractor, with oversight provided by the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office personnel. Although much of the work will be contracted, the ultimate responsibility for the content of the plan, alternative preparation, analysis of impacts and decision making will be the responsibility of BLM Colorado.

II. Anticipated Planning Issues and Management Concerns

A **planning issue** is a conflict or dispute over resource management activities, allocations, or land use that is well defined or topically discrete and entails alternatives between which to choose.

Management concerns are topics or points of dispute that involve a resource management activity or land use. While some concerns overlap issues, a management concern is generally of a program-specific nature and more important to an individual or group, as opposed to a planning issue, which has a more widespread point of conflict. Addressing management concerns in the RMP/EIS helps ensure a comprehensive examination of federal land use management. Management concerns will be modified as the planning process continues, and will not be addressed as thoroughly as an issue.

The planning issues and management concerns presented below are preliminary and are based on the best information known to date. The process of developing this RMP will afford many opportunities for collaboration with local, State, Federal, and Tribal governments and land management agencies, public interest groups, and public land users. As a result, these issues and concerns may need to be modified and perfected to reflect public comments and concerns during formal scoping.

After gathering public comments, each of the new issues will be placed in one of three categories: 1) Issues to be resolved in the plan, 2) Issues resolved through policy or administrative action, or 3) Issues beyond the scope of this plan. Rationale will be provided in the plan for each issue placed in category 2 or 3.

The overarching issues UFO will address in the plan are listed below. Each overarching issue, in turn, has several sub-topics, issue questions and management concerns which address more specific uses and resources.

As applicable, items listed in Appendix C of the Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1) will be addressed and decisions will be made. Applicable questions are shown under the overarching issue.

Issue 1. How will vegetative resources, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, water resources, and special management areas be managed, while maintaining biological diversity and native species populations?

Issue 2. How will energy and minerals resources be managed?

Issue 3. How will human activities and uses be managed?

Issue 4. How will land tenure, withdrawals, and utility/energy corridors be managed or adjusted?

Issue 5. How will cultural, historical and paleontological resources and Native American Religious Concerns be managed and protected?

Issue 6. How do population growth and an expanding urban interface affect the management of public lands and resources, including authorized and permitted land uses, while considering community values and needs?

Issue 1. How will vegetative resources, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, water resources, and special management areas be managed, while maintaining biological diversity and native species populations?

A. Soil, Water, Air

Soil resources are managed to maintain or improve watershed condition and function, and to minimize surface disturbing activities that result in accelerated erosion rates. Additionally, soils derived from Mancos shale are managed to minimize off-site transport of sediment, salinity, and Selenium.

Surface water quality of the area's streams and lakes will remain compliant with Colorado state water quality classifications, designations, and numeric standards. Water rights needed to support resource values on public land will be pursued where needed, including instream flow water rights. Existing water rights for beneficial uses on public lands are protected by monthly monitoring of water right application résumés and needed actions are implemented. The beneficial uses of existing instream flow water rights on public lands are protected through needed terms and conditions on future rights-of-way applications for water diversions.

The RMP will identify desired outcomes for soil and water resources, including the standards and goals found in the Clean Water Act.

The Uncompahgre Field Office will ensure compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal air quality laws. The Uncompahgre Planning Area has 3 class 1 airsheds: Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Wilderness, West Elk Wilderness, and Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness.

Questions to be addressed*:*

- What are the desired outcomes and area-wide criteria or restrictions that apply to direct or authorized emission-generated activities? Outcomes and criteria are identified in cooperation with the appropriate air quality regulatory agency, and are in compliance with state and federal laws, statutes, and plans.
- How should UFO manage public lands within and around municipal watersheds (source water areas)? What are the municipal watersheds (source water areas)?

- Where are soils that are subject to salinity and leaching of selenium located? What measures or practices are necessary to maintain or reduce salinity to the Colorado River Basin?
- Identify areas that are prone to mass wasting and that have a severe soil erosion potential. What management practices should be implemented? What are the limits to other uses and activities?
- What, if any, restrictions or other protective measures are needed on future water diversions out of surface water streams and lakes in order to protect aquatic species and fisheries (including endangered Colorado River fish and to comply with the ESA)?
- Where is in-stream flow or point source water (rivers, streams, springs, reservoirs, and seeps) protection needed to protect or enhance aquatic plant and animal habitat?
- What current water rights held by BLM or its permittees need to be protected or maintained?
- How should wetland and riparian habitat be managed in regards to water rights?
- Which watersheds or specific soils need special protection from the perspective of human health concerns, ecosystem health, or other public uses? Where are the priority areas on the landscape?
- What, if any, area-wide use restrictions or other protective measures are needed to meet national and state water quality requirements, standards, and regulations?
- What are the desired wetland and riparian area width/depth ratios, stream bank conditions, channel substrate conditions, and large woody material characteristics?
- What are the desired outcomes/conditions for rivers, streams, (including standards or goals under the Clean Water Act)?
- What measures, including filing for water rights under applicable State or Federal permit procedures, are needed to ensure water availability for multiple use management, and functioning healthy wetland or stream systems?

Management Concerns:

- To what degree is air quality impacted by activities, such a wildfire, prescribed fire, hard rock mining, oil & gas, dust from roads, other.
- How do we estimate criteria air pollutants, and address hazardous air pollutants and greenhouse gasses?
- Future diversions need protections (stipulations) to ensure water rights are protected.
- UFO needs to work and coordinate with two water roundtables.

B. Special Management Areas (including ACECs, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, and Wilderness Study Areas)

The Uncompahgre planning area has six Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designated, contains all or portions of five wilderness study areas (WSA), and has one congressionally designated special area (table 2). The Uncompahgre Field Office has commenced a preliminary Wild and Scenic Rivers inventory, including identification of free-flowing segments and potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs). As part of the RMP effort, UFO will need to determine eligibility, potential classification, and suitability. While determining eligibility and suitability, UFO will work with two water roundtables, the San Miguel Watershed Coalition, and other interested parties. The planning area also contains portions of the historical Old Spanish Trail, and portions of the historical Dominguez/Escalante trail.

There is imminent congressional legislation to establish the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. If

legislation passes, that area will be removed from the Uncompahgre Planning Area, pulled out of this plan, and a separate RMP/EIS will be completed for the new NCA.

Table 2, Special Management Areas within the Uncompahgre Planning Area

ACEC		
Name	Acres	ACEC Designation
Adobe Badlands	6,383	ONA
Needle Rock	83	ONA
Fairview	374	RNA
San Miguel	22,841	ACEC
[1]Gunnison Sage Grouse	16,531	IBA
Escalante Canyon	2,290	ACEC

[1] A portion (5,666 acres) of the Gunnison Sage Grouse ACEC is within the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP planning area. That portion of the ACEC will not be considered in the Uncompahgre RMP.

Wilderness/WSA			
Name	[1] Acres (in UFO)	Total Acres	Type
Tabeguache Area	8,280	8,280	Congressionally designated area
Adobe Badlands	10,273	10,273	WSA
Dominguez Canyon	36,089	68,516	WSA
Camel Back	10,660	10,660	WSA
Sewemup	1,728	19,566	WSA
Dolores River Canyon	13,353	30,116	WSA

[1] Three WSAs cross field office boundaries, and are shared with UFO and an adjacent BLM Field Office. This column shows the acres within the UFO Planning Area.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- Which existing ACECs (includes RNAs and ONAs) need to be re-affirmed? Which ACECs should be expanded? Which ACECs should be dropped?
- Should any special or outstanding vegetation sites be designated as an ONA or RNA? If so, these should be designated as a type of ACEC.
- Should any cultural, historic, or paleontological sites be designated as an RNA? If so, these should be designated as a type of ACEC.
- Should any areas with other special features be considered for ACEC status?
- What are the specific goals, standards, and objectives for each ACEC, as well as general management practices and uses, including necessary constraints and mitigation measures?
- Identify goals and objectives to protect resource management (in regards to WSAs), and actions necessary to achieve these goals and objectives.
- Update WSA protection to include no motorized or mechanized travel.
- What actions are needed to protect wilderness values against impacts from unauthorized uses such as off-highway vehicle use, mountain bike use, and others?

- What monitoring indicators, or Limits of Acceptable Use, will be established to determine when wilderness values are being impacted to an unacceptable degree?
- What decisions are needed to protect or preserve wilderness characteristics? For authorized activities, what conditions of use should be required to avoid or minimize impacts to wilderness characteristics?
- Identify management direction for WSAs, in the event they are released from wilderness consideration by Congress. Manage WSAs under the interim management policy until they are designated wilderness or released by Congress.
- What decisions and actions are needed to protect the ORVs and free-flowing characteristics of stream segments that are determined to be suitable? Are current management plans and actions consistent with protection of those values?

Management Concerns:

- How should UFO address/consider interest group proposals in the management of public land? For example:
  - the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) *Networks of Conservation Areas* and *Potential Conservation Areas*.
  - the Southern Rockies Wildland Vision to protect biodiversity (http://www.restoretherockies.org/vision_doc.html).
  - Center for Native Ecosystems.
- How can UFO work more efficiently and effectively with private landowners adjacent to special management areas to reduce impacts?

C. Vegetation

Upland vegetation in the UFO provides the foundation for many resources. A healthy cover of perennial vegetation stabilizes the soil, increases infiltration of precipitation, slows surface runoff, prevents erosion, and provides clean water to adjacent streams. A healthy and structurally diverse plant community also provides wildlife habitat (including big game crucial winter range and habitat for candidate, sensitive, proposed, or threatened and endangered wildlife and vegetative species), and visual aesthetics.

Riparian plant communities exist throughout the landscape of the planning area, and are productive and ecologically valuable. They attract populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, help protect water quality, and provide habitat for diverse vegetation communities. Riparian vegetation and its ability to stabilize stream banks is critical to the proper functioning condition of the systems. If the riparian vegetation is in poor condition, the streams will lose their ability to dissipate energy from high flow events and will be less resistant to other impacts, including livestock grazing, vehicle traffic, and recreation activities.

Noxious weeds alter the structure, organization and function of many ecosystems. A healthy plant community void of noxious weeds responds better and is more resilient to natural and manmade disturbances without costly rehabilitation efforts. Conversely, communities with noxious weeds have less native vegetation, increased soil erosion, decreased soil infiltration, decreases in soil microbes and nutrients (depending upon the noxious weed), and decreased cover, shelter and forage for livestock and wildlife. Many noxious weeds also have an allelopathic effect on the germination and seedling establishment of other native species, decreasing native diversity and increasing rehabilitation costs.

In the UFO, noxious weeds have been increasing in frequency with new infestations yearly. With increased growth of the surrounding communities, quality recreation experiences, and an increase in demand for the use of public lands, that trend is going to be difficult to reverse without public education. Educating the public will increase the awareness of noxious weeds and help to reduce spread. Initiation of an early detection rapid response program along with a diligent Integrated Weed Management Program will reduce noxious weed presence, and protect and enhance the native ecosystems for the future.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- Identify desired outcomes for vegetative resources to provide for livestock forage and for native plant, fish, and wildlife habitats.
- What are the desired outcomes for vegetative resources, including the desired mix of vegetative types, structural stages, landscape and riparian functions? (Includes goals and objectives that may be established at multiple stages, as well as reclamation standards).
- What are the specific desired outcomes for special status plant species? What are the management actions that will be needed to conserve and recover special status plant species?
- What are the Best Management Practices for riparian management? What are the criteria for rehabilitating at-risk or non-functioning sites?
- What are the desired outcomes/conditions for riparian areas (including standards or goals under the Clean Water Act)?
- How will riparian and wetland systems be managed to improve or maintain habitat quality for fish, wildlife, plants, and invertebrates?
- Where is digging/removal of transplants allowed (office-wide, specific areas)? What stipulations should be attached to the permit (distance allowed off the road, stump height, season of gathering, species of plants, other)?
- How will Land Health Assessments, Proper Functioning Condition assessments, and monitoring be used to make better decisions and to mitigate land uses?
- Where are wildfire fuels reduction projects desired? Should they meet multiple objectives?
- Should important vegetation corridors be designated (to allow for plant migration) and where, and what measures are needed to protect them?
- How will management actions adapt for moderate and severe drought conditions?
- Where are commercial seed collectors allowed (or not allowed) to harvest seed? If allowed, does the location vary by species? What conditions should be applied to a permit to collect seed commercially? Are there any restrictions on species for collection?
- What are the guiding principles for seeding in regards to reclaiming disturbed areas? When should seeding natives be required, when can exceptions be made, and to what degree?
- What is the desired outcome and management strategy in regards to noxious weed management?
- Are there additional noxious weed prevention measures (BMPs) required?
- Should biomass harvesting for energy production be allowed? If so, at what scale, and where (office-wide, specific types of areas)? What stipulations should be attached to a permit or contract?
- What areas have ecological importance? Are there areas that need to be designated for priority plant and animal habitat, including special status species and populations of plant species recognized as significant, for at least one factor such as density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, or age? What actions or area-wide use restrictions are needed to achieve desired conditions?

- Identify old growth forest and woodland stands, or describe a process for identifying old growth stands based on structure and composition characteristics.
- Provide management direction to maintain or to contribute toward the restoration of the structure and composition of old growth forest stands.

Management Concerns:

- What watersheds, wetlands, or specific stream segments need special protection in regards to human health concerns, ecosystem health or other issues?
- What areas are of ecological importance, and how do we use these areas to address broader landscape functions and processes (e.g. fragmentation, diversity)?
- Which new special status plants and significant plant communities have been identified since the last RMP? Where are these plant populations located? How will we manage (protect) them?
- How can local management of public lands mitigate global issues, such as climate change (e.g. biomass utilization, carbon sequestration, alternative fuels, others).
- How can adaptive management be incorporated into the RMP (applies to many topics)?

D. Special Status Species

Special status species include animal or plant species that are formally designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as federally endangered or threatened, proposed for listing, or are candidates. They also include those species designated by Colorado Division of Wildlife as state endangered or threatened species, and those identified as BLM sensitive species in the state of Colorado. Responsibilities for management of federally listed proposed or candidate species are outlined in the Endangered Species Act and the BLM 6840 Manual. The policy for management of Federally listed species is to not authorize, fund or implement any actions that are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat, and to develop programs to conserve listed species.

Of special interest for the development of the Uncompahgre RMP are the clay-loving wild buckwheat, Gunnison sage grouse, Gunnison prairie dog and white-tailed prairie dog. During the RMP plan development period, it is highly likely that one or more of these species' Federal status may change.

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was petitioned to reevaluate and re-designate critical habitat for the clay-loving wild-buckwheat over the known range of the species. Recently a lawsuit decided that the USFWS must proceed on the evaluation and re-designation of critical habitat.

- In addition, the USFWS has been sued by the Western Environmental Law Center over their 2006 "not warranted" decision for the listing of the Gunnison sage grouse With the April 2008 Federal Register 90 day finding that a consideration of listing is warranted for the greater sage grouse, a similar decision may come for the Gunnison subspecies.

- In February 2008, the USFWS announced the 12-month finding that the Gunnison prairie dog is not threatened or endangered throughout all of its range, but that the portion of the current range of the species located in central and south-central Colorado and north-central New Mexico (the northeastern portion of the range) represents a significant portion of the range where the Gunnison's prairie dog is warranted for listing

under the Act. Currently the species' listing is precluded by higher priority actions, and is considered to be a Candidate species.

- In July 2007, the USFWS announced plans to review and take further action, as appropriate, for eight decisions made under the Endangered Species Act, after questions were raised about the integrity of the scientific information used and whether the decisions made were consistent with appropriate legal standards. The status of the white-tailed prairie dog is in the process of being evaluated.

Federally Listed Species for the Uncompahgre Field Office[1]

Common Name	*Scientific name*
Endangered	
Black-footed Ferret	*Mustela nigripes*
Bonytail	*Gila elegans*
Clay-loving Wild Buckwheat	*Eriogonum pelinophilum*
Colorado Pikeminnow	*Ptychocheilus lucius*
Humpback Chub	*Gila cypha*
Razorback Sucker	*Xyrauchen texanus*
Threatened	
Canada Lynx	*Lynx canadensis*
Mexican Spotted Owl	*Strix occidentalis*
Uinta Basin Hookless Cactus	*Sclerocactus glaucuc*
Candidate	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus*
Gunnison Prairie Dog	*Cynomys gunnisoni*

[1]In accordance with an updated species list (Feb.7, 2008) provided by Allen Pfister of the FWS, the following species were removed from the UFO T&E list: southwestern willow flycatcher (does not occur within the UFO), Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly (does not occur within the UFO), DeBeque phacelia (does not occur within the UFO). On June 28, 2007, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced the removal of the bald eagle from the list of threatened and endangered species.

Questions to be addressed*:*

- What are the desired outcomes, strategies, restoration opportunities, use restrictions, and management actions needed to conserve and recover special status species?
- What are the conditions of available habitats for special status species known to occur in the UFO, and how do we protect them?
- What is the appropriate mix of habitat types and native vegetation communities across the landscape needed to maintain special status species, or to move toward recovery?
- What land uses need to change, and what management activities are needed to help conserve sagebrush habitat (for sage grouse)?
- How should UFO address degradation or loss of habitat for sensitive species as a result of residential growth adjacent to public lands and ROWs adjacent to and through public lands?
- What are the appropriate BMP conservation measures?

Management Concerns:

- What actions can UFO implement to take a more proactive role to conserve listed and

sensitive species?

- Are there species or habitats not already identified that should be designated as "Special Status" on public lands?
- How will UFO accommodate additional species as they are listed? How will adaptive management be applied to Threatened and Endangered or special status species through coordination with CDOW and USFWS?
- Critical habitat for clay-loving wild buckwheat is currently being re-evaluated and may expand to a much larger area than currently exists. How does UFO best deal with this uncertainty in the RMP?
- The Federal listing status for the Gunnison sage grouse, Gunnison prairie dog, white-tailed prairie dog and potentially others may change during the writing of the RMP. How does UFO best deal with this uncertainty in the RMP?

E. Fish and Wildlife (Including Migratory Birds)

Public lands in the planning area provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and fish species. Special management attention may be needed to restore, maintain, or enhance priority species and their habitats. Increased uses throughout the planning area have the potential to impact wildlife populations and their habitats if not properly managed. These increased uses include energy development, recreation use (motorized and non-motorized) and rights-of-ways for private access and utilities. Integrating habitat management with other resource programs requires careful planning to minimize impacts to wildlife species and their habitats, while still providing for other uses on the public lands.

Public lands are important habitat for many types of wildlife and fish including some threatened, endangered, and/or sensitive species. The habitat on public lands is becoming increasingly important as a result of loss of habitat on private lands because of development and the fragmentation of historic habitat that crossed public and private lands. Wildlife and fish populations, and their habitat, are impacted by a variety of uses, such as energy development, mineral development, grazing, motorized and mechanized use, recreation, and by natural events such as wildfire and insect outbreaks.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- Which areas are important for various species or groups of wildlife (big game, winter range, small game, birds, fish, raptors), and how should they be managed? Do some species have significant effects on the ecosystem and should population size of those species be changed? Are there any priority species, habitats, and populations of fish and wildlife which are recognized as significant?
- Under what circumstances should native animal species be introduced or re-introduced, and what, if any, would be the resulting constraints on other land uses should that occur?
- How will UFO address wildlife migration corridors and connectivity between wildlife populations? What is the connection between BLM, other federal and private land in providing habitat and migration corridors? What, if any, implications does private land development have on management of public lands, and what kinds of cooperation are needed between BLM and other agencies/private land owners to maintain adequate habitat?
- How should migratory bird habitat be managed and monitored? Which management activities affect migratory birds? What is BLM's responsibility in multi-agency efforts to monitor migratory bird population trends? What is needed to comply with the Migratory

Bird Treaty Act and avoidance of "take" of migratory birds?

- How will riparian and wetland systems be managed to improve or maintain habitat quality for fish and wildlife?
- What are the desired future conditions for major wildlife habitat types that support a wide variety of game, non-game, and migratory bird species? What are the actions and area-wide use restrictions needed to achieve desired population and habitat conditions while maintaining a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship? The state's role in managing fish and wildlife will be acknowledged.
- Identify actions and area wide use restrictions needed to achieve desired populations and habitat conditions while maintaining a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationships.
- What are the essential fish habitats for federally managed fish species? What are the water needs for wildlife and fish within the area?
- Should impacts of allowable activities and uses be managed to maintain or improve wildlife and fish habitat? What is the appropriate balance between providing adequate habitats and allowing activities that can affect habitats?
- How should conflicts between different species be handled?
- What is the appropriate animal damage management policy for various areas?

Management Concerns:

- In coordination with Colorado Division of Wildlife, determine how we can best manage the increasing amount of deer and elk antler collection on UFO lands and the resulting impacts to resources (such as wildlife populations, soils, vegetation).
- How should UFO address/consider interest group proposals in the management of public land? For example:
  - the Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project statewide assessment of wildlife linkages (*Linking Colorado's Landscapes*) to protect biodiversity (http: //www. restoretherockies.org/linkages.htm).
- Determine how to implement existing Bureau and state-wide RMP amendments (e.g. sage grouse amendment).
- How is deer and elk winter range changing? What are the implications of increased development of private lands on big-game winter range and migration corridors?

Issue 2. How will energy and minerals be managed?

A. Coal

Coal mining has been, and will continue to be, active in the planning area. Four active coal mines, with three underground mines holding federal coal leases and one surface mine expressing future interest in federal coal operate within the field office jurisdiction. The three active mines holding federal coal leases are in a region locally known as "The North Fork Valley". Those operations will be extracting and selling federal coal and fee coal at about a 9 to 1 ratio until about 2011, when federal coal will be 100% of extraction and sales. Federal coal production is expected to range from 14 million to 18 million tons per year and yield an average of $27 million in royalties each year. UFO has complex coordination with the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest, as much federal coal underlies the forest. The fourth active surface mine extracts fee coal at a location near the town of Nucla, Colorado, with potential for expanding on federal coal under fee surface. Many areas with coal are split-estate. Some areas with private surface and federal coal have houses or subdivisions being built. There is the potential for continued exploration of

federal coal in all known coal areas which could result in additional leasing and mining beyond 2025.

There is the possibility of coal and gas interests on the same piece of ground. Exploration and development of both resources could occur concurrently or sequentially; furthermore, in an effort to prevent losses or bypass of either resource, BLM prefers to manage potential conflict by giving coal exploration and development priority to a 3,500 foot depth. Nevertheless, the first company to obtain a federal lease (gas or coal) has the first right to develop the resource. If a gas company were to drill first, the coal company would have the responsibility to protect the gas improvements (holes, facilities). If a coal company were to mine first, the gas company would have the responsibility to protect the mine workings especially with respect to the safety of the miners.

Environmental organizations have appealed the U.S. Forest Service over their decision to consent to surface improvements that allow venting methane from a proposed underground coal mine. The appeal addresses the impacts of methane venting on climate change. Currently the laws and regulations governing federal mineral and surface management agencies do not disallow methane venting from coal mines, or require those agencies to mitigate methane emissions.

Questions to be addressed*:*

- What best management practices, lease stipulations, and conditions of approval will be employed in areas open to leasing?
- What are the short and long-term resource condition objectives for areas currently under development, and for new leases, which would guide reclamation activities prior to abandonment?
- Which areas are acceptable for consideration for leasing, subject to existing laws, regulations, and formal orders? What are the terms and conditions of the standard lease form?
- What areas should be closed to leasing? (These are areas where it has been determined that other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected with even the most restrictive lease stipulations; appropriate protection can be ensured only by closing the lands to leasing.)
- Which areas are unsuitable for surface mining of coal under the criteria set forth in 43 CFR 3461?
- For areas where coal leasing is acceptable, which areas are suitable for development by all mining methods (e.g. surface, underground)?
- What special conditions must be met for coal leasing and development, including measures to protect other resource values?

Management Concerns:

- How do we address coal leasing and Coal-bed Methane development?
- How do we deal with split estate coal in areas that have, or could potentially have, housing developments?
- Are current mitigation measures and reclamation for mining maintaining or improving land health?
- How should UFO deal with coal bed methane venting (drainage) and cumulative impacts?
- What are the potential conflicts where federal coal development involves private surface?

B. Oil and Gas

The UFO has two main areas for oil and gas production: the north fork area located in the northeast part of the planning area; and the southwest part of Montrose County. The UFO oil and gas program has been expanding over the last 4 years. UFO has seen a tremendous increase in leased parcels, and in the number of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD). We expect to see more field development plans.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- Should there be a density limit (density cap) on oil/gas wells and pads in critical winter range? If so, should the cap be on the number of wells drilled or pads constructed per year, or the total number allowed? How is density measured – number per section, number per winter range, or other?
- How can we encourage or mandate concentrated, multi-well pads, and smaller pads?
- Should noise limitations or restrictions be applied to Oil and Gas activities, and what are they?
- How should RMP and oil/gas leasing availability decisions be coordinated so that infrastructure needs (roads, pads, pipelines) for oil and gas development are compatible with desired conditions for specific areas of land?
- What are the pertinent issues surrounding split-estate lands and impacts to surface owners? What can be done to resolve these issues in the RMP?
- Which areas should be open to leasing, subject to existing laws, regulations, and formal orders; and terms and conditions of the standard lease form?
- Which areas should be open to leasing, subject to moderate constraints such as seasonal and controlled surface use restrictions? (These are areas where it has been determined that moderately restrictive lease stipulations may be required to mitigate impacts to other land uses or resource values.)
- Which areas should be open to leasing, subject to major constraints such as no-surface-occupancy stipulations? (These are areas where it has been determined that highly restrictive lease stipulations are required to mitigate impacts to other lands or resource values.)
- Which areas should be closed to leasing? (These are areas where it has been determined that other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected with even the most restrictive lease stipulations; appropriate protection can be ensured only by closing the lands to leasing.)
- What best management practices, lease stipulations, and conditions of approval will be employed in areas open to leasing?
- What are the long-term resource condition objectives for areas currently under development which would guide reclamation activities prior to abandonment?
- For each lease stipulation, what are the circumstances for granting an exception, waiver, or modification? What are the general documentation requirements and public notification associated with granting exceptions, waivers, or modifications?
- Do constraints identified for new leases also apply to areas currently under lease?
- Do leasing and development decisions also apply to geophysical exploration?

Management Concerns:

- What areas have high/medium/low potential for oil and gas development?
- What areas have high potential for Coal-bed Methane development?
- Are current oil/gas-related mitigation measures and reclamation adequate for maintaining or improving land health?

- How should UFO address CDOW concerns for wildlife impacts from O&G development?

C. Locatable Minerals (Includes Uranium, Vanadium, Base Metals, Precious Metals)

Since about 2004, due to global demand causing an unprecedented increase in price, uranium and vanadium minerals exploration and development activity in the Uncompahgre Planning Area has shown an exponential increase in the volume of permit applications. This trend is expected to continue in the future. Over 5000 uranium related mining claims have been filed over the past three years, which is a significant increase over the volume seen during the previous 25 years. As other metals' prices (such as gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, lead, and zinc) continue to remain high, the UFO could see an increase in claim staking and permit applications associated with these commodities as well.

A uranium mill, located on private land within the Paradox Valley in western Montrose County, is currently in the permitting process. If this mill is approved, it could lead to an increase in uranium and vanadium mining activity in the western part of the planning area.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has 10,732 total acres of withdrawn BLM land in the western part of the planning area, of which 4,488 acres have active uranium leases. Additional withdrawn lands are likely to be leased in the future. Although DOE may lease BLM lands within the withdrawn area for uranium mining, the UFO is responsible for the surface management.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- What best management practices, reasonable stipulations, and resource constraints should be imposed on locatable mineral development to help meet resource objectives? Are they the same for all minerals? Are they different for various extraction methods?
- What are the short and long-term resource condition objectives for areas that potentially could be developed, which would guide reclamation activities prior to abandonment?
- Which areas are recommended for closure to locatable mineral exploration and development to protect natural resources in the area? (These areas must later be petitioned for withdrawal.)
- Should landing strips be allowed (e.g. for small aircraft utilized for mineral exploration and mining operations)?

Management Concerns:

- Which potential locatable minerals does UFO have?
- What will be the increased activity from the DOE Uranium withdrawal area, and how much increased activity will be driven by the proposed uranium mill? What impacts will this have to surface uses and resources?

D. Renewable Energy (Wind Energy, Solar Energy, Geothermal Energy)

Uncompahgre field office has not had any activity in the realm of wind energy, solar energy, or geothermal energy. The field office does have potential for renewable energy activity, so this needs to be proactively addressed. Decisions will be consistent with each of the BLM's renewable energy PEIS and RODs.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- Which areas should be open to leasing, subject to existing laws, regulations, and formal orders; what will be the terms and conditions of the standard lease form?
- Which areas should be closed to leasing? (These are areas where it has been determined that other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected with even the most restrictive lease stipulations; appropriate protection can be ensured only by closing the lands to leasing.)
- What best management practices, lease stipulations, and conditions of approval will be employed in areas open to leasing?
- What are the short and long-term resource condition objectives for areas currently under development which would guide reclamation activities prior to abandonment?

Management Concerns:

- What areas have potential for wind energy, solar energy, or geothermal energy development? (Review the applicable PEIS.)
- What is the current state of knowledge on effects from wind energy to migratory birds and bats?

E. Mineral Materials (Includes Sand, Gravel, Moss Rock)

The saleable sand and gravel program has been stable for over 10 years. The program is expected to remain stable, and to potentially increasing in the near to long term. Growth could come from an increase in demand due to factors such as building construction, road maintenance, a demand from the uranium industry for their exploration and development roads, and other unforeseen economic growth. Moss rock permit sales to individuals have been stable.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- What areas should be open (or closed) to disposal of sand, gravel and other mineral materials?
- Where should UFO allow non-commercial mineral material gathering (for individual use)? How far off the road is a permitted individual allowed to travel in a vehicle, and what stipulations should be placed on permits?
- Where should commercial mineral material extraction be allowed, and what stipulations should be placed on permits?
- What terms, conditions, resource constraints or other special considerations should be imposed on mineral materials development to protect resource values?

Management Concerns:

- Are current mitigation measures and reclamation maintaining or improving land health?

Issue 3. How will human activities and uses be managed?

A. Recreation

Recreation demands and expectations on public lands have greatly changed since completion of the RMP's for the Uncompahgre Basin (1989) and the San Juan/San Miguel (1985) Planning Areas. The planning area has a high level of tourism, continued local population growth, easy access from population centers, and expansion of residential areas

in close proximity to public lands, all of which increase the demand for recreation use and the potential for resource damage on public lands.

Recreational activities occur throughout the planning area, and include motorized and non-motorized uses, horseback riding, hiking, motorcycle riding, mountain bike riding, photography, wildlife viewing, big and small game hunting, gold medal fisheries, sightseeing, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, canoeing, kayaking, and target shooting. The planning area has four Scenic Byways: West Elk, Unaweep/Tabeguache, Grand Mesa, and the San Juan Skyway. UFO has two major rivers that see a great deal of water sport and fishing: San Miguel/Dolores River, and the Lower Gunnison River.

All areas within the planning area have seen increasing visitation, user conflicts, and resource impacts. There has been an increased demand for special recreation permits (SRP) for guide and outfitting services, fund raisers, competitive events, and other uses. There are about 70 permits each year within the planning area. The demand for amenities such as campgrounds, trail systems, and improved roads has also been increasing. There has also been an increasing demand for better user information, including maps, signs, brochures, and websites.

Dispersed camping, target shooting, unauthorized off-highway vehicle use, illegal trash dumping and party sites are increasing throughout the area. This is creating additional management, resource, and safety concerns, as well as increased demand for law enforcement presence.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- How will commercial guide and outfitter use be managed?
- What best management practices, lease stipulations, and conditions of approval will be attached to special recreation permits in order to meet resource objectives and to avoid conflicts with other land uses?
- Where, when and what type of competitive events will be considered?
- What methods and criteria will be utilized to determine the appropriate levels of use or carrying capacity limits for all types of private and commercial recreation?
- What criteria will be used to determine what new commercial uses should be allowed, where should they be allowed, and to what extent?
- How should recreation uses, such as boating, camping, hiking, horseback riding, or OHV use, be managed?
- How should recreational (casual use) gold panning be managed?
- Should any area(s) be designated as a SRMA? If so, what is the discrete recreation management zone (RMZ) boundary?
- What are the appropriate Natural Resource Recreation Settings for each RMZ?
- For each SRMA, will the primary market-based strategy be to manage for a destination recreation-tourism market, or an undeveloped recreation-tourism market? What is the market for each SRMA?
- Within a SRMA, how should other resource uses be managed?
- Anything not delineated as an SRMA is an extensive recreation management area (ERMA). What are the management objectives for the UFO ERMA?
- What are the marketing, monitoring, and administrative support actions needed to manage ERMAs?
- Where and how will dispersed camping be allowed, and how will it be managed?
- Where and how will motorized game retrieval be allowed?
- To what extent, and in what general areas, should BLM develop facilities and improve

recreation access opportunities to meet public demand and to provide for public health and safety?
- Which, if any, sites and facilities should be fee sites?
- How will target shooting (practice) be managed?
- What areas should be managed to maintain the natural character and setting for recreational benefits?
- How should BLM address or regulate evolving technologies that will someday be used for recreation on public lands?
- Should any areas be nominated and designated as a BLM Scenic Byway or BLM Back Country Byway?
- Should any areas be nominated for, or designated national recreation trails, watchable wildlife viewing areas, or other BLM administrative designations?

Management Concerns:
- What are the options for partners, communities, other federal/state/local agencies to enhance or contribute to management capacity?
- How can BLM best work with the National Park Service, State parks, tourism industry, local businesses, etc., to ensure that visitors are provided with the right information about the area and the recreational activities it offers?
- What tools/sources (such as interpretation, marketing, advertisement) need to be utilized on local, regional and national levels for information and education about the area?

B. Livestock Grazing

The RMP will incorporate Colorado's Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (1997). Within the planning area, UFO manages 218 grazing allotments and 152 grazing permittees. Because of the diversity of elevations and slope within the planning area, grazing is allocated somewhere in the planning area during every month of the year.

Questions to be addressed*:*
- What are the guiding range management principles that UFO will incorporate into individual permits, or management of allotments?
- How should emergency allotments (grass banks) be addressed, and how should they be utilized?
- What lands will be available for livestock grazing? Is the current allotment categorization accurate given current resource issues and concerns?
- What lands are currently not available for livestock grazing? (*This could be due to the lands not being made available during the original RMP, of the grazing preference or permit being voluntarily relinquished*). Should these decisions be revisited?
- What amount of forage for livestock (AUMs) can be made available and continue to be available for future anticipated demands while maintaining a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple uses?
- How will lands that are available for livestock grazing be managed to accommodate livestock grazing (look at changes in season of use, changes in stocking rates, possible grazing management practices, grazing systems, range improvements). What are the guidelines and criteria for future allotment-specific adjustments?
- If an LHA shows an allotment(s) cannot achieve standards under any level or management of livestock, the decision to allow livestock grazing on that allotment(s) needs to be revisited.

- Are grazing management actions appropriate toward meeting land health standards, and in conformance with guidelines (4180.2C)?

Management Concerns:

- Are the current allotment boundaries suitable? Do the allotments need to be updated?
- Is allotment categorization (M, I, C) still used? If so should some allotments change category? Note: a draft IM is being reviewed, which will ensure land health considerations are the primary basis for prioritizing the processing of grazing permits and leasing. Follow this IM once it is approved.

C. Trails and Travel Management

Travel off of existing routes and deliberately creating new routes has been increasing, resulting in resource damage. Damage is to resources such as cultural sites, riparian areas, vegetation, soil stability, water quality, wildlife disturbance, an increase in noxious weeds, and others.

UFO has one travel plan, which is the North Fork OHV travel plan from 2001. UFO is currently working on two travel plans: the Dry Creek travel plan, which will have route-by-route designations; the Field Office-wide travel plan for the remainder of the field office, which will limit travel to existing routes. The Field Office-wide plan will allow route designations and restrictions in the future. Upon completion of the Dry Creek travel plan and the Field-Office-wide plan, all areas of the field office will be covered by a transportation management plan.

Questions to be addressed*:*

- What criteria should be used to determine if current and future OHV use is compatible with OHV use designated in the travel management plans? Under what circumstances can designations be changed?
- What roads and trails should the BLM provide for access to or across public lands?
- What road and trail easements should be acquired to provide reasonable public and administrative access to public lands?
- Should any areas be designated off-highway vehicle (OHV) management areas?
- What areas should be open, limited, or closed to OHV use?
- Where does BLM need to restrict motorized or non-motorized use?

Management Concerns:

- How will the Travel Management Plans UFO is currently working on be integrated? (Including travel designations and facilities).

D. Visual Resources

Questions to be addressed*:*

- How should UFO maintain or improve visual qualities along scenic byways, backcountry byways, and high-use transportation corridors?
- What are the visual resource management objectives (management classes) for the planning area? Designation of VRM management classes will be based on visual resource inventories and management considerations for other land uses. Visual resources will be managed in accordance with VRM objectives.

E. Forestry and Forest Products

The Uncompahgre Field Office manages small areas of spruce/fir forests and ponderosa pine forests, and large areas of pinyon-juniper woodlands. Pinyon-juniper woodlands are sought after for woodland products such as firewood, post and poles, and Christmas trees.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- Where is fuelwood gathering allowed? What stipulations should be attached to the permit (distance allowed off the road, stump height, season of gathering, species, other)?
- Where is Christmas tree cutting allowed (office-wide, specific areas)? What stipulations should be attached to the permit (distance allowed off the road, stump height, season of gathering, species, other)?
- Where is post and pole cutting allowed? What stipulations should be attached to the permit (distance allowed off the road, stump height, season of gathering, species, other)?
- How should UFO address forest health issues in order to maintain healthy and thriving forests and woodlands?
- Will commercial forest/woodland products sales be authorized, and under what circumstances?
- What are the desired future conditions for forest/woodlands? What would be some possible management actions and best management practices? What are the characteristics of healthy forest/woodland conditions for the UFO forest/woodland types?

F. Wildland Fire Management

The current fire management program includes wildfire suppression to protect resource values, managing wildland fire and prescribed fire to achieve identified resource objectives, reduction of accumulations of high risk fuels to mitigate risk from wildfire, as well as collaborative prevention and mitigation programs with state, county, city governments, and fire districts to improve local fire mitigation and response capabilities to protect private lands. The fire management program takes appropriate management action on all wildland fires in its jurisdiction based on consideration of firefighter and public safety, threats to private property, resource values at risk, potential resource benefits that can be derived from an incident, anticipated management costs and political and social concerns.

As communities expand into the adjacent wildland, more private values are exposed to potential losses from catastrophic wildland fires. Counties have worked on establishing priorities for hazardous fuels mitigation in the wildland urban interface, and some fire districts have completed Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). The field office will utilize CWPPs, county priorities, wildland urban interface risk assessments, and the RMP to guide hazardous fuels management and to help determine the appropriate management response to each incident

Montrose Interagency Fire Management and the Uncompahgre Field Office completed the UFO Fire Management Plan and associated EA in 1999, and updated the plan in 2002. This plan is currently being updated, and we expect to complete the update in 2008.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- Where (or how) can fuels management activities be used to reduce hazardous fuels in the

WUI, while promoting a healthy ecosystem and multiple objectives? What are the types of fuels, what are the general treatment methods (such as mechanical, biological, chemical, prescribed fire) that will be allowed?
- How does residential growth adjacent to BLM impact fire management?
- For what purposes, and how, will fire be used as a management tool?
- What impacts will occur to or from local communities in regards to wildfire, including smoke impacts and public perception of suppression/no suppression?
- What are the landscape level fire management goals and objectives which would be achieved through wildland fire management actions? These goals and objectives must be closely coordinated with vegetation management goals and objectives.
- What wildland fire management actions are appropriate to achieve the fire management goals and objectives, while also supporting the goals and objectives for vegetation, wildlife, and other resources?
- What are the geographic areas that are suitable for wildland fire use, and under what conditions and constraints? What are the areas where suppression action is always taken?
- What restrictions on fire management practices are needed to protect natural or cultural resource values?

Management concerns:
- How should the revised Fire Management Plan be adopted into this RMP? This includes a discussion of the vegetation mosaics and resource objectives.
- How should CWPPs be addressed in the RMP?
- How are Migratory Bird impacts to be dealt with in the Fire Management Plan (i.e. breeding season vs. burning season)?
- What are the smoke issues in regards to air quality (specific to wildland fire use, prescribed fire, and suppression fires)?
- How to build in flexibility to describe what we want accomplished (plain English), rather than utilizing fire management terminology that changes over time, or whose meaning can change. Consider using 'descriptive' terminology rather than current terminology as upcoming changes related to AMR will modify our terminology but not our intent
- What provisions should UFO have in the RMP to accommodate future revisions of the Fire Management Pan without necessitating a RMP revision?

G. Other issues

The Uncompahgre planning area has a historically-used National Guard and Army Reserve artillery site. The National Guard has partially inventoried the area for hazards (only a portion of the area has been inventoried). Some unexploded ordinance does exist, and is occasionally exposed to the soil surface and found. The Colorado National Guard has the responsibility to clear the area of unexploded ordinance.

Questions to be addressed*:*
- How should UFO deal with unexploded ordinance at the former National Guard artillery range (including notices on permits for permitted uses, or stipulations requiring the permit holder to clear the area they will use)?

Management concerns:
- If the CO National Guard does clear the entire area from hazards, what will be authorized uses be?

Issue 4. How should land tenure, withdrawals, and utility/energy corridors be managed or adjusted?

The UFO is experiencing population growth and a growth in industry such as gas extraction, coal mining, and electrical power transmission. This has resulted in an increased number of requests for additional rights-of-ways for power transmission lines, residential distribution lines, and pipelines. The UFO has authorized approximately 2,500 rights-of-way for land uses such as roads, power lines, natural gas pipelines, water lines, telephone lines, communication sites, and ditches and canals on public land. The proposed national West-wide Energy Corridor also crosses part of UFO. The telecommunications industry is expanding fiber-optic systems and wireless communications systems, which could impact public lands.

UFO is actively working on cases involving land tenure adjustments such as land exchanges, land acquisitions and easement acquisitions in order to acquire key parcels and access to public land and resources. Land sales have not been a priority in recent years. UFO also works with multiple towns, cities and counties and has leased and in some cases patented lands for such uses as sanitary landfills, county maintenance shops, a golf course, a fire station and public parks under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Trespass is an ever increasing problem and includes unauthorized uses such as occupancy and agricultural development and dumping on public land. As more private land is developed, it is becoming increasing difficult to access and/or manage public land.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- What lands should be retained, and which lands should be proposed for disposal (exchange). What are the disposal and exchange criteria?
- What areas should be identified for acquisition of non-federal lands (best serve public needs and interests if in public ownership)? What are the acquisition criteria?
- Which easements should be identified for acquisition, and what are the criteria for easement acquisition?
- Should any areas be withdrawn from mineral entry, and how will they be managed?
- Which areas that have been previously withdrawn should continue to be withdrawn, modified, or revoked?
- Where should BLM designate potential right-of-way corridors in order to avoid a proliferation of separate rights-of-ways? Are there any existing corridors that should be formally designated?
- Are there any right-of-way avoidance or exclusion areas, which are not available under any conditions?
- What terms and conditions apply to right-of-way corridors, including best management practices?
- What are the potential development areas for renewable energy products (e.g. wind, solar), communication sites, and other uses?
- Under what circumstances, if any, may authorizations for use, occupancy, and development be allowed?

Issue 5. How will cultural, historical, paleontological resources, and Native American Religious Concerns be managed and protected?

The Uncompahgre field office contains over 10,000 recorded archaeological sites, ranging from localities of the earliest Paleoindian inhabitants of North America through the latest historical Euroamerican farming and ranching contexts. National Register and Register eligible sites are common, and include some of the most spectacular rock art panels in the nation. Rock art from this area includes petroglyphs and pictographs from archaic (4000+ years old) Formative Fremont and Anasazi cultures between 700 and 2000 years ago) and historic inscriptions such as the Rivera inscription in Roubidoux canyon, which includes the name and date from the first Spanish exploration in the region in 1768. Important rock art sites include the Gunnison Gorge site, Escalante Canyon site, Palmer Gulch, Shavano Valley, Dolores River Canyon and Paradox valley. Educational and interpretive work is underway on several of these sites.

Prehistoric archaeological sites are extensive, and are best known from the formative contexts of the Fremont and Anasazi cultures, prehistoric farming communities recognized by the remains of their stone houses and villages. Anasazi house and village remains are common in the southern portions of the area, while Fremont traces may be found further north between Delta and Whitewater. In between lay the traces of the less well known Gateway culture, where a mingling of the other two cultural complexes may be found.

The archaeology of the Uncompahgre region is rich in historic sites and landscapes as well. Important historic sites and localities include the Ute Trail, the Dominguez/Escalante trail, the Old Spanish Trail, the aforementioned Rivera expedition, the fur trapping era Fort Roubidoux on the Uncompahgre river, historic period Ute Indian sites such as standing wickiup villages and the original Fort Uncompahgre Indian Agency, farming, ranching and gold-rush era mining sites. In the San Miguel and Dolores canyons stand the remains of the Hanging Flume, a world heritage site from the placer mining era.

Paleontology

The Uncompahgre area contains a diverse and extensive array of paleontological resources. Over 80% of the surface area in the field office is considered to have moderate to high potential for fossil finds, and over half is rated as Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) classes 4 and 5, where significant fossil remains are commonly found. Geological formations including the Burro Canyon and Morrison are found across the entire area, and even the ubiquitous Mancos clays are known for their abundant mollusk shells.

Significant dinosaur finds from the area include the original discovery or type site of Seismosaurus and the productive Dry Mesa fossil quarry, operated for well over a decade of fossil recovery by BYU. In the Dry Creek region, dinosaur bones are frequently spotted eroding from the soft shales of the Morrison formation, while fragments and sometimes entire dinosaur eggs are found in selected localities along the rivers. Also common are fossils recovered during Uranium mining in the Paradox and Uravan areas. Future work will focus on the recovery of dinosaur specimens from Cottonwood Canyon and Dry Creek.

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- Have known cultural resources been allocated to the appropriate cultural resource use categories? Is management and planned actions for known cultural resources consistent with the cultural resource use categories?
- If any special management areas get designated, has a cultural resource management plan been developed?

- Have new historic properties (i.e. National Register sites) including places of religious and cultural importance been identified since the last RMP that require special designation or site-specific use restrictions?
- Have management actions been updated to adhere to existing policies and laws, the National Programmatic Agreement, the State Protocol and any other agreements?
- What are the highest priority areas likely to contain significant cultural resources and the schedule for inventory?
- What are the highest priority "at-risk" sites that require restoration and/or stabilization and the schedule for this work?
- What are the highest priority cultural resource sites that need monitoring?
- What measures are needed to proactively manage, preserve, and protect cultural and heritage resources to ensure they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations?
- Are the current strategies for protecting cultural resources in grazing allotments working? How can BLM more efficiently carry out its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for grazing permit renewals?
- Are the current strategies for protecting cultural resources in travel management areas working? How can BLM more efficiently carry out its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for travel management plans?
- Are cultural resources being adequately considered during the energy/minerals leasing process? How will the field office implement the APD process improvements identified for cultural resources (See WO IM No 2003-147)?
- What measures are needed to ensure that; (a) areas containing, or that are likely to contain, vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils are identified and evaluated prior to authorizing surface disturbing activities; (b) management recommendations are developed to promote the scientific, educational, and recreational uses of fossils; and (c) threats to paleontological resources are identified and mitigated as appropriate?
- Identify appropriate protection measures and scientific, educational and recreational use opportunities for paleontological localities.
- What threats, if any, are there to paleontological resources, and what mitigation is appropriate?
- What criteria or use restrictions are needed to ensure that cultural, historical, and paleontological sites are identified and evaluated prior to surface-disturbing activities?
- What are the new issues and concerns related to (a) protection of sacred sites or sacred landscapes and the needs for access to them and (b) needs for protection or use of areas for gathering plants for traditional purposes?

Management Concerns:

- What management decisions are needed, if any, to promote the scientific, educational, and recreational uses of fossils?

Issue 6. How do population growth and an expanding urban interface affect the management of public lands and resources, including authorized and permitted land uses, while considering community values and needs?

Several issues can be found in areas where population and development are rapidly expanding adjacent to public lands. Many of the questions have been shown under previous issues. The zone where public lands and private lands are side by side or intermixed is the *wildland-urban*

interface. UFO is faced with the challenge of sustaining resources and meeting diverse demands, while the land faces increased public demands.

There has been increased residential growth near public lands throughout the field office. Population growth, including developments adjacent or near public lands is expected to continue. Public lands near populations show increased usage, which includes many forms of recreation.

Population within the planning area is expected to continue to increase significantly. The three counties with the most BLM land within the planning area are Montrose, Delta, and San Miguel. Their population growth during the seven year period 2000 to 2007 is:

Montrose County	18.2%
Delta County	9.0 %
San Miguel County	14.2 %

***Questions to be addressed**:*

- How do we best manage increasing uses and demands of public lands that result from foreseeable increasing population growth?
- How should UFO address the degradation or loss of critical big game winter habitat as a result of residential growth adjacent to public lands?
- How should UFO address the degradation or loss of Sensitive Species habitat (i.e. sagegrouse, kit fox, prairie dog, clay-loving buckwheat, Colorado hookless cactus) as a result of residential growth adjacent to public lands?
- How will we continue to provide access to public lands with private landowners increasingly closing access?
- How will public lands that are adjacent to private be managed?
- What restrictions or BMPs should be required for various activities and permitted uses to protect night skies from light pollution, and to protect against noise pollution?
- How will reasonably foreseeable mineral development (fluid and solid) impact the local economies of the diverse communities and uses of public lands?

Management Concerns:

- How to provide effective management of public lands along with increased demands for public land use?
- How can the RMP help support local planning efforts?

III. Preliminary Planning Criteria

Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules that are developed to guide and direct the development of the plan and determine how the planning team approaches the development of alternatives and ultimately, selection of a Preferred Alternative. Planning criteria are based on standards prescribed by applicable laws and regulations, agency guidance, results of consultation and coordination with the public, other federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes, analysis of information pertinent to the planning area, and professional judgment.

The following preliminary criteria were developed internally and will be reviewed by the public before being used in the Plan/EIS process. The criteria will be included in a Federal Register Notice. After public input analysis, they become proposed criteria, and can be added to or changed as the issues are addressed or new information is presented. The UFO Manager will

approve the issues and criteria, along with any changes.

- The proposed RMP will be in compliance with FLPMA and all other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
- Impacts from the management alternatives considered in the revised RMP will be analyzed in an EIS developed in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 1610 and 40 CFR 1500.
- Lands covered in the RMP will be public land and split estates managed by BLM. No decisions will be made relative to non-BLM administered lands.
- For program specific guidance of land use planning level decisions, the process will follow the Land Use Planning Manual 1601 and Handbook H-1601-1, Appendix C.
- Broad-based public participation will be an integral part of the planning and EIS process.
- The planning team will work cooperatively with the State of Colorado, tribal governments, county and municipal governments, other federal agencies, the South West RAC, cooperating agencies and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals.
- Decisions in the plan will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, and federal agencies as long as the decisions are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law, and regulations applicable to public lands.
- BLM will consult with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The RMP will recognize the State's responsibility and authority to manage wildlife.
- The RMP will recognize the Office of Surface Mining's responsibility and authority to regulate coal activities.
- BLM will recognize the State's responsibility for permitting related to oil and gas activities and in regulating air quality impacts.
- BLM will recognize the State's responsibility for permitting related to uranium, coal, and sand and gravel activities, and in regulating water quality impacts.
- The National Sage-grouse Strategy requires that impacts to sagebrush habitat and sagebrush-dependent wildlife species be analyzed and considered in BLM land use planning efforts for public lands with sagebrush habitat in the planning area.
- The RMP will recognize valid existing rights.
- The planning process will incorporate Colorado's Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
- Wilderness Study Areas will continue to be managed under the Interim Management Policy (IMP) for Lands under Wilderness Review until Congress either designates all or portions of the WSA as wilderness or releases the lands from further wilderness consideration. It is no longer the policy of the BLM to make formal determinations regarding wilderness character, to designate additional WSAs through the RMP process, or to manage any lands other than existing WSAs in accordance with the Wilderness IMP.
- The planning process will involve American Indian tribal governments and will provide strategies for the protection of recognized traditional uses.
- Any location specific information pertaining to cultural resources (either map, description, or photo) is proprietary to the BLM and will not become the property of any contractors working on the EIS or attached to any document (paper or electronic), nor is this information subject to any public release or FOIA requests (36CFR 7.18).
- The RMP will include adaptive management criteria and protocol to deal with future issues.
- A reasonable foreseeable development scenario for fluid minerals, uranium, and coal will be developed from analysis of past activity and production, which will aid in the environmental consequences analysis.

IV. Data and GIS Needs

Production of the proposed RMP will utilize a variety of data sources. This includes GIS data, BLM files, existing management plans, data from partners, data from cooperating agencies, and local knowledge.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) maps are the building blocks to quantify resources and display information during alternative formulation. GIS data needs are driven by the identified issues and concerns, as well as the preliminary planning criteria. A review of the issues, concerns and planning criteria indicates that currently available GIS data will satisfy the majority of the resource data needs. Available GIS data is shown in appendix A.

The UFO staff has identified data and GIS needs that are required to address resource and use issues, and to develop and analyze impacts of plan alternatives. Appendix B summarizes these data needs and provides the action required to obtain the data, as well as a cost estimate. Additional unanticipated data may also be needed; some may be available internally or from partners, while some may need to be created.

Geospatial database development assumptions are identified below. All new data will be collected to established data standards. Existing data will be converted to established data standards.

Geospatial Data Development
The development of the geospatial database for this planning effort will be accomplished by the BLM and its contractors and within the context of existing BLM data management strategies. Database development tasks performed by the BLM and any of its contractors will incorporate goals, objectives, mandatory policies, and procedures identified in national Federal governmental guidance and instructions regarding the use, development, and sharing of geospatial data and its management including the following:

- Template for GIS data storage
- Executive Order 12906 of 1994 – Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)
- OMB Circular A-16 & the expected revision
- OMB Information Initiative of 2000 – “Collecting Information in the Information Age”
- OMB Information Quality Guidelines – (Public Law 106-554; H.R. 5658)
- Incorporate goals, objectives, mandatory policies, and procedures identified in Washington Office BLM planning guidance and other instructions regarding data management
- BLM H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook
- BLM IM No. 2001-038 (11/30/2000) – Development/Approval of Preparation Plans for New Planning Starts
- BLM IM No. 2001-029 (11/13/2000) – Interim Data Management Guidance
- BLM IM No.2001-202 (8/3/2001) – Interim Guidance for Data Management in Land Use

Any location-specific sensitive information pertaining to cultural or natural resources (map, GIS dataset, description, or photo) is proprietary to the BLM. Such data will not become the property of any contractors working on the EIS or attached to any document (paper or electronic) except through signed memorandums of understanding limiting the data’s distribution. This sensitive information is not subject to any public release or FOIA requests (36CFR 7.18). All spatial

information generated by contractors will be property of BLM. Appropriate data sharing with the public will be accomplished through the use of the BLM planning webpage.

V. Participants in the Process

A. Project Management Team

i) Project Manager

Bruce Krickbaum

The Project Manager has primary responsibility for directing the planning effort, and for preparation of the RMP and EIS documentation: ensure schedules are adhered to; manage daily operations of plan preparation; set priorities for completing the plan; Contracting Officer's Representative; coordinate staff involvement in the planning process; serve as the point person in the public participation process; inform UFO Management Team and State Office planning staff of progress; recommend solutions to keeping progress on schedule; recommend draft and final products to UFO managers.

ii) UFO Management Team.

Barb Sharrow	(Field Manager)
Dave Kauffman	(Associate Field Manager)
Missy Siders	(Biological Staff Supervisor)
Teresa Pfifer	(Lands & Minerals Supervisor)
Karen Tucker	(Recreation Staff Supervisor)

The UFO Management Team will set Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) priorities in relation to other workloads; provide overall management and direction to the ID Team; have ID Team members available for completion of all phases of the RMP; participate in all reviews; ensure final product is responsive to issues and is able to be implemented; ensure that management of lands and resources along agency administrative boundaries is arrived at in a collaborative manner to assure consistency; assist in developing issues and concerns; obtain appropriate budgets for the duration of the project; keep the State Director informed of progress; recommend solutions to keep progress on schedule; approve the Preparation Plan; recommend draft and final products to the State Director.

iii) BLM State Director, Colorado

Sally Wisely

The Colorado State Director approves the Preparation Plan, Draft RMP and EIS, Proposed RMP and EIS, signs the Record of Decision; provides state office staff coordination and review; assists in protests and appeals; provides scarce skill specialists for the ID Team as needed (e.g. Economics, Air Quality).

B. Core and Interdisciplinary Teams

i) Core Team

The Core Team consists of the UFO Management Team and the Project Manager. The Core Team will meet as needed to discuss progress on the plan, and upcoming events and actions. The Core Team will also meet to resolve issues as needed.

ii) Interdisciplinary Team

GIS Term	(GIS)
David Sinton	(GIS Lead)
Amanda Clements	(Vegetation, Riparian, Ecology)
Glade Hadden	(Cultural, Paleontology, Native American Religious Concerns)
Lynae Rogers	(Invasive Weeds, Rangeland Management)
Kurt Kubik	(Rangeland Management, Vegetation)
Dean Stindt	(Rangeland Management, Vegetation)
Dennis Murphy	(Hydrology, Wetlands, Floodplains, Soils)
Charlie Sharp	(Wildlife, T & E)
Julie Jackson	(Recreation, Travel Management, VRM)
Edd Franz	(Recreation, Boating)
Rob Ernst	(Geology, Oil/Gas, Salable Minerals)
Desty Dyer	(Coal Mining)
Linda Reed	(Lands)
Sandy Bearden	(Safety)
Ken Holsinger	(Fuels Management)
Dan Huisjen	(Fire Ecology, Fire Management)
Becky Jossart	(Fire Management)
Jim Maloney	(Law Enforcement Officer)

ID Team members attend meetings as determined by the project manager. At times, depending on the topic, only a portion of the ID Team will meet. The project manager will invite specific members of the ID Team to attend specific meetings. ID Team members are responsible for consulting with the RMP project manager and their supervisor in advance of deadlines concerning any questions, anticipated event delays, and any anticipated needs or shortfalls. Members will also meet with the public and industry to acquire information.

Supply technical data, draft narratives, impact analyses, and other information in time to meet established deadlines; work with the contractor(s) hired for the planning effort; work with cooperating agency representatives; provide information for maps at the appropriate scale and standards for publication and for use during the analysis; review portions of the Draft RMP/EIS that pertain to their area of responsibility (at a minimum).

During the course of the planning effort, ID team members will work in an interdisciplinary manner, consult with other professionals as needed or required, and make full use of other Field Office, State Office and cooperating agency expertise assigned to the planning team.

GIS – Serves as data administrator for the RMP: coordinates with the UFO GIS coordinator on data standards, metadata, and requirements; provide GIS expertise to the RMP ID Team.

Accountability

Individuals working on this RMP/EIS are accountable for completing their specific tasks on time; a smooth progression to each step requires this. Management and supervisors will be kept informed of the team's progress. The project manager will keep team members and reviewers aware of the schedule and elapsed time. Being accountable for a job carries a responsibility for each individual involved to meet deadlines and to submit the best product possible. Any situations that could result in a delay will be resolved immediately by collaboration between the project manager, management, and individuals involved. The objective will be to evaluate the circumstances, ensure all involved are aware of the impacts, and take actions to get back on schedule.

C. Support Team

Angela Glenn	CO State Office Coordinator	Coordinate assignments and scheduling of any needed personnel from the Colorado State Office. Coordinate timely reviews by the state office. Ensure consistent and accurate interpretation of policy and State Director guidance and that reviews are focused on content and substance. Act as the State Director's representative for the project. Provide technical assistance to the Field Office when necessary. Provide planning/NEPA procedural guidance and training for the planning team. Serve as the main contact point with State government for consistency review. Serve as main contact point with the Washington Office for briefings of the Director and Secretarial staffs and for protest resolution.
vice Lloyd	Public Affairs Officer	Provide Public Affairs support, including press releases and other assistance as needed.
Bob Hartman	Petroleum Engineer	Petroleum Engineer for the Uncompahgre Basin portion of the RMP. Provide information for Reasonably Foreseeable Development scenarios for oil/gas fields, provide knowledge and expertise in the development of alternatives and impacts in regards to oil and gas. Reviews and comments on all material related to oil/gas, including the development of the draft RMP/EIS.
Dan Rabinowitz	Petroleum Engineer	Petroleum Engineer for the San Juan Basin portion of the RMP. Provide information for Reasonably Foreseeable Development scenarios for oil/gas fields, provide knowledge and expertise in the development of alternatives and

		impacts in regards to oil and gas. Reviews and comments on all material related to oil/gas, including the development of the draft RMP/EIS.
Jeff Kitchens	Forestry and Woodland Products	Provides forestry and woodland products support, expertise and analysis. Advises on forestry laws, regulations, acceptable practices, and problem areas. Assists in the development of alternatives and impacts in regards to forestry and woodland products.
Aaron Worstell	Air Quality	Provide air quality support, expertise and analysis. Advise on the intensity of an air quality study. Assist in the development of alternatives and impacts in regards to Air Quality.
vice Romaniello	Socioeconomic Analyst	Provide required socioeconomic analysis. Provide information, data, and other needed supporting documentation in the development of the current management, alternatives, and impacts statements. Provide other assistance as needed in regards to Socioeconomics.

VI. Format and Process for the Plan

A. General Steps and Format

The format and outline of the plan will come from BLM planning and management guidance and manuals (43 CFR 1600, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook - H-1601-1). Specifically, the format of the draft and final RMP/EIS and of the Record of Decision will follow the format prescribed in Appendix F-4 and F-5 of the Land Use Planning Handbook.

All legal and policy requirements will be met in the RMP and in the process regarding public notices, required elements, and distribution of draft and final documents. National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines will be met through completion and publication of the plan. The Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be published with the Draft and Proposed versions of the RMP.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) that meets both the CEQ regulations and the planning regulations will be published in the Federal Register. This will coincide with the beginning of a 45 day public scoping period. The NOI will identify preliminary issues and planning criteria.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft RMP/EIS will be published in the Federal Register. Public comments will be analyzed after a 90 day review period for the Draft RMP and EIS. UFO will consider all comments prior to publishing the Proposed RMP, Final EIS, and Record of Decision. Comments will be responded to in the Proposed RMP/EIS. The land use plan will be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans of local and state governments, other Federal agencies, and Indian tribes to the maximum extent practical, as

long as the plan is also consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of FLPMA and other Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands [see 43 CFR 1610.3-2 (a)].

A NOA for the Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be published in the Federal Register. This will kick off a 30 day protest period. Before UFO approves the proposed RMP, the Governor of Colorado will have 60 days to identify inconsistencies between the proposed plan and State plans and programs, and to provide written comments to the State Director. The BLM and the State may mutually agree upon a shorter review period. If the Governor does not respond within this period, it is assumed that the proposed land use plan decisions are consistent. If the Governor recommends changes in the proposed plan that were not raised during the public participation process, the State Director will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the recommendations [43 CFR 1610.3-2 (e)]. This public comment period will be offered for 30 days. If the State Director does not accept the Governor's recommendations, the Governor has 30 days to appeal in writing to the BLM Director [43 CFR 1610.3-2(e)].

Following resolution of any protests, a Record of Decision (ROD) for the RMP will be drafted and signed. Protest resolution will take approximately 90 days to complete. A NOA for the ROD will be published in the Federal Register.

B. Alternative Formulation

A range of alternatives, including a No Action alternative, will be developed to respond to the issues identified at the beginning of the process. Each alternative will provide different solutions to the identified issues and concerns. Uncompahgre Field Office will work closely with the public, cooperating agencies, and other agencies to identify reasonable options that address the issues. The objective in alternative formulation will be to develop realistic, implementable solutions, in which each alternative represents a complete plan. The elements of each alternative must meet the established purpose and need for the plan. The plan will note any alternatives identified and eliminated from detailed study and will briefly discuss the reasons for their elimination.

The Field Manager will select the Preferred Alternative from among the alternatives considered, or will develop a different alternative as the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative will be analyzed and the analysis documented. The Preferred Alternative, in the manager's judgment, will best address the issues and management requirements of the planning area.

C. Internal Review of the Plan

Internal review will be accomplished through briefings and a review of the documents. After Colorado State office review of the Draft RMP/EIS, followed by the Regional Solicitor review and subsequent incorporation of changes, WO-210 will initiate their review. Once WO-210 comments are incorporated into the draft, WO Solicitor and the Program review will be initiated. Comments will be incorporated. The Colorado State Office will review the Final RMP/EIS; this will be followed by Washington Office WO-210, Solicitor, and Program review.

D. Submission of Information

The interdisciplinary team is responsible for providing accurate technical information, data, draft

narratives, impact analyses, and other information in time to meet established deadlines. Information will be entered into E-planning. The contractor for the RMP will also enter information into E-planning.

VII. Plan Preparation Schedule

Table 3 is the estimated schedule for completion of the proposed Uncompahgre RMP and Final EIS. The schedule includes planning and support actions, target completion dates for each action, and includes time needed for preparation and award of contracts.

Table 3, Plan Preparation Schedule

Plan preparation schedule has been removed (pages 35 and 36).

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VIII. Public Participation Plan

The public participation process is an integral part of the BLM planning process and is needed to receive meaningful public involvement throughout the planning process. This includes utilizing the Uncompahgre Field Office web page, which will provide information and solicit comments from users and interested public. Field trips will also be provided when an issue or topic necessitates the need.

The objectives of public participation for this planning effort are to:

- Ensure a collaborative planning effort.
- Inform the public of the BLM's resource management planning activities.
- Solicit diverse community participation.
- Provide the public with an understanding of BLM mandated authorities and programs.
- Ensure that public needs and concerns are understood by BLM.
- Broaden the information base upon which planning decisions are made.
- Communicate to the public the reasons for decisions and the benefits to be derived through the chosen course of action.
- Sustain public participation throughout the planning effort.

a. Cooperating Agencies

Uncompahgre Field Office has developed a preliminary list of potential Cooperating Agencies, and will invite the potential Cooperating Agencies to join the planning process in that capacity. UFO will mail invitation letters to qualifying local, state, federal and tribal agencies in the fall of 2008. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed by BLM and each interested agency during in the fall of 2008, prior to beginning the planning process. MOUs and the relationships will be maintained throughout the RMP and EIS development. Potential Cooperating Agencies are listed in Appendix C.

b. Formal Consultations

Threatened and Endangered Species
UFO will complete Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. UFO staff will begin work on Section 7 consultation early in the planning process.

Tribal
UFO will initiate consultation with tribes that are identified as having interests or Traditional Cultural Properties in the planning area. Consultation will be that required by the National Historic Preservation Act and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. The identified tribes are Northern Ute, Southern Ute, and Ute Mountain Ute.

c. General Public and Agency Participation

Uncompahgre Field Office has developed positive working relationships with many of the communities and counties in the planning area. UFO will advance the relationships and our knowledge of the communities and counties by completing a "Community Assessment" of each community (or small groups of similar communities) and each county that chooses to participate. The Community Assessment will enable UFO staff to: gather information from communities about their vision for the landscape and the benefits they seek from public lands; to set the stage for strategic planning options; and to foster collaborative relationships in which

information is continually shared and updated throughout the RMP planning process.

The public participation opportunities for the major stages or the planning process are listed below.

Scoping

A Notice of Intent will be published in the Federal Register. Media articles and website information regarding the preparation and content of the plan, as well as a schedule of upcoming scoping meetings, will be published. UFO will also send e-mail or letters to governments, organizations, authorized users, and individuals on our mailing lists. Organizations and governments will include Tribes, cities, counties, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Public Lands Partnership, Uncompahgre Plateau Project, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, other local environmental groups, and other interest groups and organizations.

Informal public open house scoping meetings will be organized and facilitated by the plan contractor to gather public input on the issues, management concerns, and the planning criteria and process. UFO will also request written and electronic comments on issues and the scope of the plan, and will provide a 30-day comment period.

UFO will develop a scoping report, which will consolidate public input. The report will also include issues and management concerns brought up by the public. The scoping report will be posted in the planning section of the UFO web site.

Formulate Alternatives

Uncompahgre Field Office will hold informal open house meetings with the public, interest groups, agencies, and others to assist in formulating alternatives. UFO will also hold formal meetings with Cooperating Agencies. The RMP contractor and UFO staff will analyze concerns and recommended alternatives, and from this analysis, will develop a range of alternatives. Alternatives will be responsive to issues and management concerns previously identified, and will be designed to move the landscape to the desired future conditions.

Following development of alternatives, UFO anticipates using formal and informal forums to provide information about the alternatives, and to collect additional information concerning potential impacts. Forums could include the UFO web site, newsletters, and media articles.

Public Comment on the Draft RMP/EIS

Uncompahgre Field Office will notify the public, Cooperating Agencies, other agencies, and partners of the availability of the Draft RMP/EIS for review and comment. UFO will also publish the Draft RMP/EIS on the UFO web site. A 90-day comment period will be provided. Notification will be through a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, local and regional media, and e-mail or letters to organizations and individuals on our mailing lists. UFO will hold public meetings during the 90-day public comment period to gather comments on the draft RMP/EIS.

The UFO's contractor will collect and organize comments. Similar comments may be grouped. UFO will assess and consider all comments, and will respond to comments in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS by one of the following methods:

- Modifying alternatives.
- Developing and evaluating new alternatives.
- Supplementing, improving, or modifying analysis.

- Making factual corrections.
- Fully explaining why comments do not warrant further response.

Publish the Final EIS/Proposed RMP
Uncompahgre Field Office will publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. UFO will also notify those on the mailing list as well as all those who participated in the planning process, Cooperating Agencies, other agencies, and partners of the availability of the Final EIS/Proposed RMP. The availability of the plan will be advertised in local/regional media. A 30-day protest period will be provided. UFO will also initiate the Governor's 60-day consistency review. Any responses from the Governor will be resolved.

Publish the Record of Decision/Approved Plan
Uncompahgre Field Office will notify the public through news articles, e-mail, and the UFO web site. An NOA will be published in the Federal Register for the ROD.

IX. Budget

The budget includes projected costs associated with development of the plan, which includes data collection, contracting costs, work months for additional staff, Federal Register notices, vehicle, travel, and support costs. Table 4 (page 40) shows funding needs.

Some work is funded out of base funds from several programs. This includes in-house work (UFO staff) on the Known Coal Resource Area (KCRA) Report, the Uranium Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario, data needs, work on the AMS, as well as staff time throughout the RMP process.

Table 4, Proposed Budget

Budget information has been removed.

Appendix A. Currently Available GIS Data for the RMP

File Name	Long Name	Needs Update
T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\admin_boundaries\admin_boundaries.gdb		
BLCA_CURE	Black Canyon and Curecanti Boundaries	
mar_citytown	Cities and towns of Montrose Area of Responsibility	Y
col_cities	Colorado Cities	
col_county	Counties	
col_gnis	Geographic Name Information System for Colorado	
col_nca	Natural Conservation Areas of Colorado	
mar_planning_area_bndry	Planning area boundaries	
col_cnhp_pcas	Potential Conservation Areas	
uncompahgre_basin_rmp	Uncompahgre Basin RMP Management Units	
ufo_bndry	Uncompahgre Field Office	
T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\fire\fire.mdb		
mar_fire1104	Fire History in the Montrose Dispatch Area	Y
mar100_fmz	Fire Management Zones for Montrose Area of Responsibility	
gmug_fireplan	Fire Plan - GMUG	
ufo_fireplan	Fire Plan for Uncompahgre Field Office	
fire_pl_land_status	Large Fire History by Land Status	Y
fire_pl	Large Fire History Polygons	Y
mar_dispatch_zones	Montrose Distpatch Zones	
mar_fmu_new	New Fire Management Units in the Montrose area	
T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\geophysical\geophysical.gdb		
smu_a_co663	Cochetopa Soil Survey	
col_airquality	Colorado Air Quality	
smu_a_co660	Grand Mesa Soil Survey	
smu_a_co662	Gunnison Soil Survey	
smu_a_co674	Ouray Soil Survey	
smu_a_co679	Paonia Soil Survey	
smu_a_co677	Ridgway Soil Survey	
T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\geophysical\soil\cochetopa		
soilmu_aco663.shp	Cochetopa Soil Survey	
T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\geophysical\soil\grandmesa		
soilmu_aco660.shp	Grand Mesa Soil Survey	
T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\geophysical\soil\gunnison		
soilmu_aco662.shp	Gunnison Soil Survey	
T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\geophysical\soil\ouray		
soilmu_aco674.shp	Ouray Soil Survey	
T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\geophysical\soil\paonia		
soilmu_aco679.shp	Paonia Soil Survey	

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\geophysical\soil\ridgway

soilmu_aco677.shp	Ridgway Soil Survey

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\hazmat\hazmat.gdb

col_hazmat	Highways that allow travel of hazardous material

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\hydro

NHD1401.mdb	Colorado Headwaters Watershed & Streams
NHD1402.mdb	Gunnison Watershed & Streams
NHD1403.mdb	Upper Colorado-Dolores Watershed & Streams

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\hydro\hydro.gdb

col_hdu_lev1	Colorado 1st level HUCs
col_hdu_lev3	Colorado 3rd level HUCs
col_hdu_lev4	Colorado 4th level HUCs
col_hdu_lev5	Colorado 5th level HUCs
col_hdu_lev6	Colorado 6th level HUCs
col_str	Colorado Streams
col_hdu_lev2	Colorado2nd level HUCs
fs_muni_water	Forest Service Municipal Water
mar_lakes	Lakes
mar100_lakes	Lakes (100k)
mar_wsi	MAR Water Source Inventory
col_streamflowgages	Streamflow gaging stations
ufo_streams	Streams
mar100_str	Streams (100k)
unc_mjw	Uncompahgre Basin Major Water
mar_WaterDiversions	Water Diversions
mar_wells	Wells

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\hydro\hydro.gdb\muni_ground

ufo_ground_zone_1	Municipal Ground Water Zone 1
ufo_ground_zone_2	Municipal Ground Water Zone 2
ufo_ground_zone_3	Municipal Ground Water Zone 3

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\hydro\hydro.gdb\muni_surface

ufo_surface_zone_1	Municipal Surface Water Zone 1
ufo_surface_zone_2	Municipal Surface Water Zone 2
ufo_surface_nearzones	Near Zone for Surface Municipal Water Sources

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\lands\lands.gdb

mar_radio	BLM and Forest Service Radio Repeater Locations
col_gcdb_2005	Colorado GCDB 2005
col_landstatus	Colorado Land Status
col_meridian	Colorado meridians
col_sections	Colorado Sections
col_townships	Colorado Townships
mar_com_sites	Communications Facilities on Montrose Area of Responsibility
rights_of_ways2008	Rights of Way 2008
mar_withdrawals_blm	withdrawals Bureau of Land Management
mar_withdrawals_bor	withdrawals Bureau of Reclamation
mar_withdrawals_doe	withdrawals Department of Energy

Y

mar_withdrawals_ferc	withdrawals Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
mar_withdrawals_fs	withdrawals Forest Service
mar_withdrawals_nps	withdrawals NPS
mar_withdrawals_power_site_reserves	withdrawals power site reserves
mar_withdrawals_public_water_rights	withdrawals public water rights

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\lands\parcels.gdb

delta_county_parcels	Delta County Parcels
delta_county_subdivisions	Delta County Subdivisions
gunnison_county_parcels	Gunnison County Parcels
montrose_county_parcels	Montrose County Parcels
ouray_county_parcels	Ouray County Parcels
san_miguel_county_parcels	San Miguel County Parcels

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\lands\UtilityLines.gdb\DMEA

DMEA_Poles_shp	DMEA Poles
DMEA_PrimaryConductor_shp	DMEA Primary Conductor
DMEA_SecondaryConductor_shp	DMEA Secondary Conductor
TransmissionRoutes_shp	DMEA Transmission Routes
Transmission46kV_Poles_shp	DMEA Transmission46kV Poles

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\lands\UtilityLines.gdb\KinderMorgan

Kinder_Morgan_TransColorado_Mileposts_5_23_2007	Kinder Morgan TransColorado Mileposts 5/23/2007
Kinder_Morgan_TransColorado_Pipeline_5_23_2007	Kinder Morgan TransColorado Pipeline 5/23/2007

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\lands\UtilityLines.gdb\WAPA

access_rds	WAPA Access Roads
facilities	WAPA Facilities
msites	WAPA msites
t_lines	WAPA Transmission Lines
structures	WAPA Utility Structures

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\law_enforce\law_enforce.gdb

ufo_patrol	Law Enforcement Protrol Sectors

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\map_base\map_base.gdb

contour100	100 Foot Contours
col_100k	col_100k
col_index24	col_index24
col_quarterquads	col_quarterquads
contour100	contour100

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\minerals\minerals.gdb

col_oilgaspotential	col_oilgaspotential
col_aml_blm	Colorado Abandoned Mine Lands
col_coal_lease	Colorado Coal Lease
Federal_Subsurface	Federal_Subsurface
krcra	Known coal recovery areas
mar_aml_state	MAR Abandonned Mine Lands
MAR_OG_stips	MAR Oil and Gas Stipulations
o_g_leases	Oil and Gas Leases

Y

ufo_OG_stips	UFO Oil and Gas Stipulations	

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\range\range.gdb

mar_alb_region_allot	MAR Grazing Allotment Boundaries	Y
mar_pasture_allotment_boundaries	MAR Grazing Pasture Boundaries	Y
ufo_rip_l	UFO Range Improvement Projects - Lines	Y
ufo_rip_s	UFO Range Improvement Projects - Points	Y
ufo_rip_p	UFO Range Improvement Projects - Polygons	Y

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\recreation\recreation.gdb

cwp_07132001	Citizens Proposed Wilderness
col_wilderness	col Wilderness
col_wilderness_landstatus	col Wilderness by land managing agency
col_wsa	col Wilderness Study Areas
col_nca	Colorado National Conservation Areas
mar_ohv	mar OHV
mar_state_parks	mar state parks
old_sp_trail	Old Spanish Trail
trails_hike	trails_hike
ufo_srma	ufo Special Recreation Management Areas

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\transportation\transportation.gdb

gmug_trails	gmug_trails
gmug_travel	gmug_travel
HighwaySymbols	Highway Symbols
mar100_roads	mar100_roads
montroseco_gps_rds	Montrose County GPSed Raods
OurayCountyRoads	OurayCountyRoads
redrock_trail	redrock_trail
sanmiguel_roads	sanmiguel_roads
scenic_byway	scenic_byway
TransAnno	TransAnno
ufo_ohv_open_areas	ufo_ohv_open_areas

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\vegetation

col_veg25m	Colorado Vegetation

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\vegetation\vegetation.gdb

col_ecoregion	col_ecoregion	
ufo_landunits	ufo_landunits	
ufo_teo_point	ufo_teo_point	Y
ufo_teo_poly	ufo_teo_poly	Y
ufo_vegmgtunits	ufo_vegmgtunits	Y
SCGL_pts	Uinta Hookless Cactus Points (Delta Transmission Line Inventory)	
SCGL_poly	Uinta Hookless Cactus Polygons (Delta Transmission Line Inventory)	

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\cnhp.gdb

L1_eors09_2006	CNHP Element Occurrence for rare & imperiled species & unique natural communities
L1_eorpts09_2006	CNHP Element Occurrence for rare & imperiled species & unique natural communities - points
L1_obsln09_2006	Colorado Natural Heritage Program Rare Species Observations
L1_obspt09_2006	Colorado Natural Heritage Program Rare Species Observations - points

L1_obsply09_2006	Colorado Natural Heritage Program Rare Species Observations - polygons
L2_eors09_2006	L2_eors09_2006

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\AmericanWhitePelican

PELICAN_foraging_area	PELICAN_foraging_area
PELICAN_nesting_area	PELICAN_nesting_area
PELICAN_overall_range	PELICAN_overall_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\BaldEagle

BALD_EAGLE_active_nestsites	BALD_EAGLE_active_nestsites
BALD_EAGLE_communal_roost	BALD_EAGLE_communal_roost
BALD_EAGLE_inactive_nestsites	BALD_EAGLE_inactive_nestsites
BALD_EAGLE_roost_sites	BALD_EAGLE_roost_sites
BALD_EAGLE_summer_forage	BALD_EAGLE_summer_forage
BALD_EAGLE_unknown_nestsites	BALD_EAGLE_unknown_nestsites
BALD_EAGLE_winter_concentration	BALD_EAGLE_winter_concentration
BALD_EAGLE_winter_forage	BALD_EAGLE_winter_forage
BALD_EAGLE_winter_range	BALD_EAGLE_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\Bighorn

BIGHORN_migration_corridors	BIGHORN_migration_corridors
BIGHORN_mineral_lick	BIGHORN_mineral_lick
BIGHORN_overall_range	BIGHORN_overall_range
BIGHORN_production_area	BIGHORN_production_area
BIGHORN_severe_winter	BIGHORN_severe_winter
BIGHORN_summer_concentration	BIGHORN_summer_concentration
BIGHORN_summer_range	BIGHORN_summer_range
BIGHORN_water_source	BIGHORN_water_source
BIGHORN_winter_concentration	BIGHORN_winter_concentration
BIGHORN_winter_range	BIGHORN_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\BlackBear

BLACK_BEAR_fall_concentration	BLACK_BEAR_fall_concentration
BLACK_BEAR_human_conflict	BLACK_BEAR_human_conflict
BLACK_BEAR_migration_corridors	BLACK_BEAR_migration_corridors
BLACK_BEAR_overall_range	BLACK_BEAR_overall_range
BLACK_BEAR_summer_concentration	BLACK_BEAR_summer_concentration

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\CDOW_management_boundaries

BIGHORN_SHEEP_management_boundaries	BIGHORN_SHEEP_management_boundaries
CDOW_AreaBoundaries	CDOW_AreaBoundaries
CDOW_state_wildlife_areas	CDOW_state_wildlife_areas
DEER_ELK_game_management_units	DEER_ELK_game_management_units
MOUNTAIN_GOAT_management_boundaries	MOUNTAIN_GOAT_management_boundaries

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\CoRiverCutthroat

CoRiverCutthroat_HUC10	CoRiverCutthroat_HUC10

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\Elk

ELK_highway_crossing	ELK_highway_crossing
ELK_limiteduse_area	ELK_limiteduse_area

ELK_migration_corridors	ELK_migration_corridors
ELK_overall_range	ELK_overall_range
ELK_production_area	ELK_production_area
ELK_resident_population	ELK_resident_population
ELK_severe_winter	ELK_severe_winter
ELK_summer_concentration	ELK_summer_concentration
ELK_summer_range	ELK_summer_range
ELK_winter_concentration	ELK_winter_concentration
ELK_winter_range	ELK_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\GreatBlueHeron

GB_HERON_foraging_area	GB_HERON_foraging_area
GB_HERON_historic_nestarea	GB_HERON_historic_nestarea
GB_HERON_nesting_area	GB_HERON_nesting_area

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\GreaterSageGrouse

GRSAGE_GROUSE_brood_area	GRSAGE_GROUSE_brood_area
GRSAGE_GROUSE_heavy_hunting	GRSAGE_GROUSE_heavy_hunting
GRSAGE_GROUSE_historic_habitat	GRSAGE_GROUSE_historic_habitat
GRSAGE_GROUSE_overall_range	GRSAGE_GROUSE_overall_range
GRSAGE_GROUSE_production_area	GRSAGE_GROUSE_production_area
GRSAGE_GROUSE_severe_winter	GRSAGE_GROUSE_severe_winter
GRSAGE_GROUSE_winter_range	GRSAGE_GROUSE_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\GunnisonSageGrouse

GUNSAGE_GROUSE_brood_area	GUNSAGE_GROUSE_brood_area
GUNSAGE_GROUSE_historic_habitat	GUNSAGE_GROUSE_historic_habitat
GUNSAGE_GROUSE_overall_range	GUNSAGE_GROUSE_overall_range
GUNSAGE_GROUSE_production_area	GUNSAGE_GROUSE_production_area
GUNSAGE_GROUSE_severe_winter	GUNSAGE_GROUSE_severe_winter
GUNSAGE_GROUSE_winter_range	GUNSAGE_GROUSE_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\KitFox

KIT_FOX_overall_range	KIT_FOX_overall_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\LeastTern

LEAST_TERN_foraging_area	LEAST_TERN_foraging_area
LEAST_TERN_production_area	LEAST_TERN_production_area

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\Lynx

LYNX_potential_habitat	LYNX_potential_habitat

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\Moose

MOOSE_concentration_area	MOOSE_concentration_area
MOOSE_overall_range	MOOSE_overall_range
MOOSE_summer_range	MOOSE_summer_range
MOOSE_winter_range	MOOSE_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\MountainGoat

MT_GOAT_concentration_area	MT_GOAT_concentration_area

MT_GOAT_mineral_lick	MT_GOAT_mineral_lick
MT_GOAT_overall_range	MT_GOAT_overall_range
MT_GOAT_production_area	MT_GOAT_production_area
MT_GOAT_summer_range	MT_GOAT_summer_range
MT_GOAT_winter_range	MT_GOAT_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\MountainLion

MT_LION_human_conflict	MT_LION_human_conflict
MT_LION_overall_range	MT_LION_overall_range
MT_LION_peripheral_range	MT_LION_peripheral_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\MuleDeer

MULE_DEER_concentration_area	MULE_DEER_concentration_area
MULE_DEER_highway_crossing	MULE_DEER_highway_crossing
MULE_DEER_limiteduse_area	MULE_DEER_limiteduse_area
MULE_DEER_migration_corridors	MULE_DEER_migration_corridors
MULE_DEER_overall_range	MULE_DEER_overall_range
MULE_DEER_resident_population	MULE_DEER_resident_population
MULE_DEER_severe_winter	MULE_DEER_severe_winter
MULE_DEER_summer_range	MULE_DEER_summer_range
MULE_DEER_winter_concentration	MULE_DEER_winter_concentration
MULE_DEER_winter_range	MULE_DEER_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\Osprey

OSPREY_active_nestsites	OSPREY_active_nestsites
OSPREY_foraging_area	OSPREY_foraging_area
OSPREY_inactive_nestsites	OSPREY_inactive_nestsites

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\Otter

OTTER_concentration_area	OTTER_concentration_area
OTTER_natal_den	OTTER_natal_den
OTTER_overall_range	OTTER_overall_range
OTTER_winter_range	OTTER_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\Peregrine

PEREGRINE_mig_hunting_hab	PEREGRINE_mig_hunting_hab
PEREGRINE_nesting_area	PEREGRINE_nesting_area
PEREGRINE_potential_nesting	PEREGRINE_potential_nesting

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\Pronghorn

PRONGHORN_concentration_area	PRONGHORN_concentration_area
PRONGHORN_limiteduse_area	PRONGHORN_limiteduse_area
PRONGHORN_migration_corridors	PRONGHORN_migration_corridors
PRONGHORN_overall_range	PRONGHORN_overall_range
PRONGHORN_resident_population	PRONGHORN_resident_population
PRONGHORN_severe_winter	PRONGHORN_severe_winter
PRONGHORN_winter_concentration	PRONGHORN_winter_concentration
PRONGHORN_winter_range	PRONGHORN_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\Ptarmigan

PTARMIGAN_overall_range	PTARMIGAN_overall_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\RingNeckPheasant

PHEASANT_concentration_area	PHEASANT_concentration_area
PHEASANT_overall_range	PHEASANT_overall_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\RioGrandeCutThroat

RioGrandeCutthroat_HUC10	RioGrandeCutthroat_HUC10

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\SnowGoose

GEESE_brood_concentration	GEESE_brood_concentration
GEESE_foraging_area	GEESE_foraging_area
GEESE_molting_area	GEESE_molting_area
GEESE_production_area	GEESE_production_area
GEESE_winter_concentration	GEESE_winter_concentration
GEESE_winter_range	GEESE_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\ndis.gdb\WildTurkey

TURKEY_overall_range	TURKEY_overall_range
TURKEY_production_area	TURKEY_production_area
TURKEY_roost_sites	TURKEY_roost_sites
TURKEY_winter_concentration	TURKEY_winter_concentration
TURKEY_winter_range	TURKEY_winter_range

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\vegetation.gdb

cont_veg	Continuous Vegetation

T:\CO\GIS\gisdata\field_offices\ufo\wildlife\wildlife.gdb

mar_bald_eagle_active_nests	bald eagle active nests
mar_bald_eagle_communal_roosts	bald eagle communal roosts
mar_bald_eagle_inactive_nests	bald eagle inactive nests
mar_bald_eagle_roost_areas	bald eagle roost areas
mar_bald_eagle_winter_concentration_areas	bald eagle winter concentration areas
mar_bighorn_sheep	bighorn sheep
mar_bighorn_sheep_area	bighorn sheep area
mar_bighorn_sheep_overall_range	bighorn sheep overall range
mar_bighorn_sheep_summer_concentration_areas	bighorn sheep summer concentration areas
mar_bhswco_polygon	Bighorn sheep winter concentration areas
mar_bhswr_polygon	Bighorn sheep winter range
crit_habitat_bony_tail_chub	Bony Tail Chub Critical Habitat
erpecrithab	Clay Loving Buckwheat Critical Habitat
crit_habitat_clayloving_wildbuckwheat	Clayloving Wild Buckwheat Critical Habitat
CO_BHCAs	Colorado Bird Habitat Conservation Areas
col_breeding_bird_survey	Colorado breeding bird survey
col_gmu	Colorado Game Management Units for Deer & Elk
co_lynx_habitat	Colorado lynx habitat
crit_habitat_coloradopikeminnow	Colorado Pikeminnow Critical Habitat
mar_data_analysis_units	data analysis units
mar_game_management_units	game management units
mar_golden_eagle_active_nests	golden eagle active nests
mar_golden_eagle_inactive_areas	golden eagle inactive areas
crit_habitat_humpback_chub	Humpback Chub critical habitat
co_lynx_analysis_unit	lynx analysis unit
co_lynx_linkages	lynx linkages

col_lynx_potential_habitat	lynx potential habitat
mar_bhssr_polygon	mar_bhssr_polygon
crit_habitat_mexican_spotted_owl	Mexican Spotted Owl Critical Habitiat
ufo_neotropical_bird_transects	neotropical bird transects
ufo_peregrine_falcon	peregrine falcon
mar_peregrine_falcon_active_nests	peregrine falcon active nests
mar_peregrine_falcon_inactive_nests	peregrine falcon inactive nests
ufo_raptor_sites	raptor sites
crit_habitat	Razorback Sucker Critical Habitat
mar_sage_grouse_brood_areas	sage grouse brood areas
mar_sage_grouse_crutial_winter_areas	sage grouse crutial winter areas
mar_sage_grouse_historic_range	sage grouse historic range
mar_sage_grouse_leks	sage grouse leks
mar_sage_grouse_nesting_habitat	sage grouse nesting habitat
mar_sage_grouse_overall_range	sage grouse overall range
mar_sage_grouse_severe_winter_range	sage grouse severe winter range
mar_sage_grouse_winter_range	sage grouse winter range
ufo_southwest_willow_flycatcher	southwest willow flycatcher
ufo_southwest_willow_flycatcher_detection	southwest willow flycatcher detection
ufo_threaten_endangered_animals	Threaten & Endangered Animals
RMBO_Yellowbilled_Cuckoo	Yellowbilled Cuckoo (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory)

Appendix B. Data Needed for the Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
Air			
Near Field Modeling of Potential Oil/Gas Development on Air Quality and Air Quality-Related Values	Data will be used to analyze the impacts of Oil/Gas field development on air quality and air quality-related values.	Contract with a consultant experienced with this type of modeling.	*Funding amount has been removed.*
Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Species, and Migratory Birds			
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Fish Presence and Potential in Perennial Rivers and Streams.	Data is needed for the RMP to assist in effects analysis and consultation with USFWS. If we do not have at least some general information on what river/stream reaches have TES fish species, consultation will be more difficult to complete, and "Reasonable and Prudent Measures" could be more restrictive from USFWS. In addition, it may be more difficult to come to a "Not likely to Adversely Affect" call on listed fish for some management activities.	We can get a satisfactory layer with help from Tom Fresques (West Slope Fish Biologist), CDOW data, local knowledge (Dennis Murphy, Dean Stint, and USFS), and in-house GIS (term GIS). 3 weeks of staff time, *funded in-house*. Additional support funding is required for data purchase and operations.	*Funding amount has been removed.*
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants	Data is needed for the RMP to assist in effects analysis and consultation with USFWS. If we do not have information on which known locations have specific TES plants, consultation will be more difficult to complete, and "Reasonable and Prudent Measures" could be more restrictive from USFWS. In addition, it may be more	In-house GIS; seasonal to sort through paper files for clearance survey reports; compile existing spatial data from contract TES survey companies; clean, import and standardize data. 2 weeks of staff time, *funded in-house* (includes GIS term	*Funding amount has been removed.*

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
	difficult to come to a "Not likely to Adversely Affect" call on listed plants for some management activities.	requested in the budget). Funding is required for seasonal employee time, and to purchase data from TES survey contractors.	
Locations Where Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants Can Potentially Occur	Data is needed for the RMP to assist in effects analysis and consultation with USFWS. This data will help predict in which locations TES plant species will occur, based on soils and other features. If we do not have some general information to predict locations where TES plant species occur, consultation will be more difficult to complete, and "Reasonable and Prudent Measures" could be more restrictive from USFWS. In addition, it may be more difficult to come to a "Not likely to Adversely Affect" call on listed plants for some management activities. While threatened and endangered plants are the priority, information on sensitive plant species would be beneficial.	In-house GIS with Wildlife Biologist. Modeling based on soils and other features important/known about plants. 2 weeks of staff time, *funded in-house* (includes GIS term requested in the budget). Funding needed for seasonal employee to sort through files for information, and to assist with data compilation. Funding needed for assistance from Southwest Data Center.	*Funding amount has been removed.*
Migratory Bird Analysis (per WO IM 2008-050)	Data is needed for the RMP to assist in effects analysis for Migratory Birds, per WO IM 2008-050. If we do not compile and analyze the best available data on migratory bird populations and habitat	Compile and consider incorporation of goals and objectives established in the following bird conservation strategies, especially for habitat management:	*Funding amount has been removed.*

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
	management recommendations from the various sources, we will not be able to adequately address environmental effects to migratory birds, as directed in WO IM 2008-050. We will not be meeting the BLM responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Executive Order 13186.	►Bird Conservation Region (BCR) plans, ►Partners In Flight (PIF) Bird Conservation Plans, ►Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan, ►Waterfowl Management Plan, ►Shorebird Conservation Plan, ►The North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, ►Audubon's Important Bird Areas, ►State Wildlife Action Plans, (state habitat conservation plan), ►Recovery plans and conservation plans/strategies prepared for federally-listed candidate species. Compile information on current population status of Migratory bird species of concern from existing Breeding Bird and Christmas bird counts for the Region. (3 person weeks, probably contract employee, @ GS11)	
Wildlife, Vegetation			
Connectivity Analysis (Wildlife)	With predicted growth (urbanization, energy development) in the UFO, managing habitat (wildlife species) for viable	Use existing analysis such as "Restore the Rockies.org (Colorado Linkage Assessment), PCA, etc. Also, some	*Funding amount has been removed.*

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
	populations will be a challenge. Also, with climate change concerns, connectivity and movement of vegetation types may also create a challenge. Failure to provide for connectivity between wildlife populations may result in negative impacts to viable wildlife populations. There will also be a lost opportunity to try to deal with climate change.	in-house Wildlife Biologist, Ecologist, seasonal labor, and GIS (GIS term position – see budget) time. 3 people for 3-4 weeks, *funded in-house*. Funding needed for data acquisition from other agencies and organizations, and for seasonal labor.	
Vegetation Structural Stage Map	This information is needed for determining vegetation age class, structural stage, and wildlife habitat distribution across UFO. This information is vital for understanding current conditions, establishing desired future conditions and identifying actions needed to reach these conditions. If we do not have this data we will not be able to identify realistic desired future conditions, or reasonable implementation measures to achieve them. We will also not be able to adequately describe current conditions.	Evaluate and combine existing GIS layers with existing field data to create a seral stage GIS layer. The GIS technician to work closely with the ecologist. It would likely be a 2 month job, which would also involve some field checks. 2 weeks of Ecologist time, and 8 weeks of GIS time, *funded in-house* (includes GIS term requested in the budget). Funding needed for seasonal labor to field check data and to assist the GIS technician. Funding also needed for data acquisition and assistance from Southwest Data Center.	*Funding amount has been removed.*

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
Vegetation Structural Stage Map (to include the other federal, state, and private lands.)	This information is needed for determining vegetation age class, structural stage, and wildlife habitat distribution across the UFO fire management area. This information is vital for managing fire at a landscape scale, which is the foundation of our fire management plan. To do so requires understanding current conditions establishing desired future conditions and identifying actions needed to reach these conditions. Fire Management will be part of the RMP. If we do not have this data we will not be able to identify realistic desired future conditions, or reasonable implementation measures to achieve them. We will also not be able to adequately describe current conditions. We will also not be able to monitor whether we are meeting the state mosaic objectives in the fire management plan.	Cross walk the Vegetation Seral Stage Map (created in the above request) with the NPS and USFS GIS data. This would also involve some field checks. 1 week of Ecologist time, and 5 weeks of GIS time, *funded in-house* (includes GIS term requested in the budget). Funding needed for seasonal labor to field check data and to assist the GIS technician. Funding needed for additional data acquisition and assistance from Southwest Data Center.	*Funding amount has been removed.*
Soils			
Paradox Biological Crusts	East Paradox Valley contains soils derived from the Paradox Formation. These soils are strongly saline and gypsiferous, and are mapped in the San Miguel Soil Survey as Soil Map Unit (SMU) 50. This SMU is 95% comprised of “Gypsum land” which has surface slopes that vary from 12 to 70%, and are found on knobs on the valley floor. Chemically the soil is close to 100%	Recommend that a BSC specialist, such as Jayne Belnap (USGS, Moab, Utah), or Roger Rosentreter (BLM, Boise, Idaho) visit the area to conduct a BSC inventory and assessment. Costs would include 3 of days of travel for the individuals	*Funding amount has been removed.*

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
	gypsum, calcium sulfate. Gypsiferous soils can support diverse, well-developed biological soil crusts (BSC). A high density of diverse BSC have been observed by UFO field staff on SMU 50, but an inventory to species level has never been conducted. SMU 50 is worthy of protection until a BSC inventory can be conducted to assess the potential unique or rare BSC cover. Without the data, we will continue to not know the status and composition of the BSC in Paradox Valley.	mentioned above and about a week to prepare a post site visit, inventory report.	
Soil Survey (High Park Lake Area)	Soil survey information for vegetation ecological site descriptions, and soil data is needed to help analyze impacts of activities. Access is through private lands, and BLM and NRCS have not been able to access the parcel for the survey.	Need access via Helicopter for 2 days (about 8 hours). Funding needed for 2 GS-11 (USGS) for 2 days.	*Funding amount has been removed.*
Cultural, Paleontological			
Class 1 Cultural Regional Overview	Information is needed to better understand the cultural resources and cultural resource potential throughout the planning area. Overview of cultural resources is 20 years out of date, and does not provide an adequate analysis of known cultural resources.	Contract	*Funding amount has been removed.*

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
Cultural Class I Overview – Synthetic reports for Mailbox Park and Paradox Valley.	These reports will be used in the planning process to fill data gaps for the final Class One overview and to provide research design questions to be incorporated in the RMP. Mailbox Park and Paradox Valley are extremely important cultural areas, both including Native American Religious Concerns and Traditional Cultural Properties along with National Register and Register Eligible historic properties. These areas have significant traditional religious interests and historical use of native tribes, and have a well-above average amount of archaeological sites. We currently have a Synthetic Overview of the Uncompahgre Plateau, which will form the basis for the Field Office Class One report. Completion of the two additional synthetic reports will form a large portion of the remainder of the report. Not having these smaller reports means that the Class I research question base is necessarily much smaller and less regionally diversified, leading to an incomplete overview and misleading future research designs.	Contract out synthetic overviews of Mailbox Park and Paradox Valley. No additional in-house work needed.	*Funding amount has been removed.*
Class 1 Paleontological Overview	Information is needed to better understand the paleontological resources and paleontological resource	Contract	*Funding amount has been removed.*

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
	potential throughout the planning area. Overview of paleontological resources is 20 years out of date, and does not provide an adequate synthesis and analysis of known paleontological resources.		
Automate known Cultural Resource sites and Paleontological resources	Data will be used during analysis of alternatives. Without data automation, the ability of UFO to protect these sites will be adversely affected.	Digitize and enter data (automate in GIS) for known cultural resource sites and paleontological sites. Accomplish with a contractor.	*Funding amount has been removed.*
Visual Resources			
VRM Inventory	BLM's Visual Resource Management (VRM) system provides a way to identify and evaluate scenic values to determine the appropriate levels of management. It also provides a way to analyze potential visual impacts and apply visual design techniques to ensure that surface-disturbing activities are in harmony with their surroundings. Visual Resource is also required by the Land Use Planning Handbook Appendix C. The consequences of not having the data are: protest and appeals to the RMP, lack of analysis of visual impacts for future projects, and lack of means for determining visual values.	The information will be obtained by a contractor, with Recreation staff input. Recreation staff involvement will be *funded in-house*. Funding is required for a contract.	*Funding amount has been removed.*

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
Energy, Minerals			
Oil/Gas Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario	Information will be used to project the amount of oil/gas activity expected throughout the life of the RMP. Activity will be projected by alternative. Not having the data would severely limit the ability of the UFO staff to accurately portray future oil and gas activity, or to defend any level of activity shown as part of the alternatives.	The Wyoming Reservoir Management Team has agreed to research and write the RFD for UFO, beginning in January 2009. Travel and vehicle use is needed for 3 visits to Montrose, 3 nights each visits, for 4 people. Some data will need to be acquired.	*Funding amount has been removed.*
Known Coal Resource Area (KCRA) Report	Information will be used to project the locations coal reserves, and the amount of anticipated activity throughout the life of the RMP. Not having the data would severely limit the ability of the UFO staff to project the locations where coal mining would be allowed, and anticipated volumes that would be extracted.	The UFO mining engineer will complete the report. 4 weeks of Staff time, GS-11, *funded in-house.*	No additional funding is required.
Uranium Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario	Information will be used to project the amount of uranium mining expected throughout the life of the RMP. Not having the data would severely limit the ability of the UFO staff to accurately portray uranium mining activity, or to defend any level of activity shown as part of the alternatives.	The UFO geologist will complete the report. Will also require coordination with DOE and Grand Junction Field Office 4 weeks of Staff time, GS-11, *funded in-house.* Funding needed for travel and data acquisition.	*Funding amount has been removed.*

Data Needed	How Data Will be Used in the Plan, and Consequences of Not Having the Data	Proposed Solution for Data Needed	Funding Required for Data Needed
Scoping / Collaboration			
Community Assessment	Gather information from communities about their vision for the landscape and the benefits they seek from public lands; b) To set the stage for strategic planning options; c) To foster collaborative relationships in which information is continually shared and updated throughout the RMP planning process. Without the assessment, it will be more difficult to gain knowledge on how communities view public lands, and to obtain information of their desires. Scoping would potentially cost more, and require more time.	Contract	FY2008 1610 funds – no additional funding is required).

Appendix C. Potential Cooperating Agencies

Montrose County Board of County Commissioners
Delta County Board of County Commissioners
Ouray County Board of County Commissioners
San Miguel County Board of County Commissioners
Mesa County Board of County Commissioners
Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
City of Montrose
City of Delta
City of Ouray
Town of Ridgway
Town of Olathe
Town of Norwood
Town of Telluride
Town of Mountain Village
Town of Placerville
Town of Sawpit
Town of Nucla
Town of Naturita
Town of Redvale
Town of Paradox
Town of Cedaredge
Town of Hotchkiss
Town of Paonia
Town of Crawford
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
(For CO Division of Wildlife; State Parks; CO Natural Heritage Program; CO State Forest Service; CO Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety)
State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)
USDA Forest Service – GMUG
NRCS – Montrose
NRCS – Delta
NRCS – Norwood
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NPS – Black Canyon National Park
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
USFS – San Juan National Forest
USFS – Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forest.
Northern Ute Tribe
Southern Ute Tribe
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
APHIS
Colorado Department of Transportation

Appendix D. Acronyms

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AMR	Appropriate Management Response
APD	Application for Permit to Drill
BMP	Best Management Practice
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area
GMUG	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest
IBA	Important Bird Area
NCA	National Conservation Area
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOA	Notice of Availability
O & G	Oil and Gas
ONA	Outstanding Natural Area
ORV	Off Road Vehicle
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMZ	Recreation Management Zone
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Zone
UFO	Uncompahgre Field Office
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface
WSA	Wilderness Study Area